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An avant-garde invasion

The *Suffolk Bunny* (right) is one of the pieces on display at "Aftershock," a collection of British contemporary artwork showcasing pieces made between 1990-2006.

The sculpture was crafted by Sarah Lucas, a contemporary artist, out of tan and blue nylons, a chair, a clamp, a kapok and wire.

The collection opened Tuesday in Beijing's Capital Museum and will display works specially selected for Chinese audiences until May 11.

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Photo provided by the British Council

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Central ministries to move to former site of steel plant

By Chen Shasha

Some central ministries will move to the former site of the Capital Iron and Steel Company (CISC) after it moves to Tangshan, Zhou Maoqi, chief executive of Shijingshan District, said Wednesday.

After the company's relocation, Shijingshan District, where the CISC is currently located, aims to build an ecological district, Zhou said. He said that the district

government plans to make the service industry account for 60 percent of total business over the next five years. The creative culture and tourism industries will be highly developed.

An office area for central ministries will be built at the former site of CISC. The office area will go from Shijingshan District to Mentougou District along Xi Changgan Jie, with a total area of one square kilometer.

The development of commercial housing will be restricted in the district according to the new plan. Zhou said that the district would mainly build housing for middle-class and upper income groups in the future and also focus on economical and suitable housing for local people.

Founded in 1919, CISC, China's fourth largest steel maker, has long been a cause of pollution concerns. In 2001, sev-

eral Beijing Municipal People's Congress deputies jointly called for a resolution on the pollution produced by CISC. A survey carried out at the end of 2004 also showed that 90 percent of respondents believed that CISC should move out of Beijing for a green Olympic Games. In 2005, CISC started to move to Tangshan, Hebei Province. The relocation will be finished by the end of 2010.

Drunk drivers to face more serious penalties

By Chen Shasha

Drunk drivers will be severely punished as of next month — have their licenses revoked and even lose their jobs, the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau announced last Sunday.

The bureau will build a blacklist system to punish drunk drivers, whether private vehicle owners or transport company workers. People who were found driving under the influence for the first time will be asked to re-apply for a driving license, with their identities released to the public.

Those caught twice in a year will have their licenses revoked. For those professional drivers of transport companies, a repeat offense means removal from their posts for at least five years.

Zhang Jingchun, director of the Beijing traffic management bureau's press office said there have been over a thousand drunk drivers arrested since last November.

The move came after the Ministry of Public Security ordered all traffic management bureaus to take effective measures to reduce traffic accidents after recent deadly incidents in Yunnan and Shaanxi. Zhang said 214 people were killed in 193 accidents from January 1 to March 16 this year in Beijing.

Apart from drunk drivers, streetcars and trucks are another big cause of traffic accidents, Zhang said. The bureau will phase the two kinds of car out of Beijing's market in the near future.



Airport security staff checking out the suspicious passenger and his luggage, in which he claimed to have a bomb, this Wednesday afternoon.

Photo by Zhang Peng

Bomb-threat causes alarm in Beijing Capital Airport

By Chu Meng

A Chinese passenger claimed to have a bomb in his luggage while boarding flight number ZH 9802/B5106 from Beijing to Shenzhen at about 4:30pm Wednesday in Beijing Capital Airport.

The airport initiated the emergency security plan to take him away from the flight and checked his luggage immediately. No suspicious items were ultimately found.

This passenger is still in the custody of airport security officials, awaiting further

investigation.

An official from the Beijing Capital Airport Company said the flight was scheduled to depart from Beijing for Shenzhen at 4:20pm Wednesday evening.

The airport security staff began explosives-threat security procedures on receiving notice from flight staff. They rushed to the plane to get the passenger under control, while integrating the department in charge of emergency situations into the response.

The official said that the

passenger claimed to have a heart attack when he was taken off the flight by airport security staff. The airport command center notified the first aid department to give him a check up, but no symptoms of heart attack were shown.

At the same time, the airport security staff conducted a second examination of the rest of the passengers, the engine room and the passenger compartments on the flight. No abnormalities were found. After three and a half hours delay, the flight departed at 7:50pm.

Foreign dealers are banned to do tobacco business

By Gan Tian

Tobacco sellers can't receive foreign capital investment if they want to stay in the business, according to regulations on tobacco monopoly licenses released by the National Development and Reform Commission in this week.

Businesses, industries and individuals, including foreign-Chinese joint ventures, cooperative ventures and foreign-owned ventures, are banned from taking part in tobacco selling by special permission, joining an alliance, or any other means, according to the regulation.

After the policy takes effect, supermarkets like Carrefour, Wal-mart and Lotus will not be allowed to sell tobacco. However, it is not against the law for the supermarkets to rent stands to other authorized tobacco dealers. Wal-mart and Carrefour have reacted, saying that they will obey the regulation and will rent out stands.

Snooker to break at China Open

By Huang Daoheng

Top world snooker players will face off in the 2007 World Snooker China Open, deemed the most popular and professional game of its kind, starting next Monday in Beijing University's Student Gymnasium.

China's snooker prodigy Ding Junhui is expected to continue his sizzling play. The world's top 16 players, including Stephen Hendry, Ken Doherty, Ronnie O'Sullivan and defending champion Williams are set to join the annual tournament, which ends April 1. An additional eight Chinese players will participate in the Wild Card Round.

Tickets for the tournament went on sale last Saturday. The price varies over the course of the tournament, and ranges from 60 yuan for the qualification round to 1,080 yuan for the finals. For more details, call the booking hotline at 6553 5699.

Elevators to receive compulsory maintenance

By Chu Meng

Elevators in residential apartments and public buildings will soon become much safer.

This Wednesday, the Beijing Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision implemented elevator safety standards that require residential or public building facility administrators to perform maintenance checks every two weeks.

As the first compulsory standard across the country, all elevators must receive inspection at least every two weeks. Maintenance items include: a working alarm and telephone, completed emergency lighting system and buttons, elevator stability and functioning automatic door safety devices.

Building facility administrators or elevator companies will receive punishments or fines for failing to comply.

City to bust black-market bicycle buyers

By Chu Meng

Beijing citizens who attempt to save money by buying stolen bicycles may soon find themselves in police custody.

Beijing police have announced plans this Wednesday to crack down on bicycle theft and illegal dealing by cracking down on buyers with knowledge of the hot goods' origins.

Wang Xiaobing, an officer with the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Public Security, said bike theft was rampant in the city and a crackdown on the illegal market was necessary. "Citizens

who buy stolen bicycles for the first time will receive criticism and education," he said.

However, if they do it a second time, their actions will receive public security penalties including a warning, detention or even re-education through labor. Personal information such as names and photos will be recorded on the official website of the public security bureau as well.

"People who purchase large numbers of stolen bicycles will be jailed for committing the crime of buying stolen goods, according to the criminal law," Wang said.

He added that the police launched a tough crackdown on bicycle theft at the beginning of the year. So far, 1,702 suspects have been seized or detained for stealing or selling stolen bicycles, and 1,355 stolen bikes have been confiscated. Wang reminded citizens of observing the law and not buying stolen bikes.

Chen Xinliang, a law professor with Beijing University, said it was illegal to purchase stolen goods. "People will be punished according to the Public Security Administration Punishments or the criminal

law, depending on the nature of their offenses," he said.

Beijing police announced on Monday that they had cracked the biggest bike criminal gang in recent years. The police caught 56 suspects and confiscated 172 stolen bicycles. Most of the thieves were from Jianli, Hubei Province.

The gang stole bicycles in the city's downtown area and then sold them in a second-hand market in Haidian District's Tiancun at 40 yuan (US\$5) for an ordinary bike and 200 yuan (US\$25) for an electric one.

Gamers bleed to resume cyber-lives

By Jiang Xubo

Impatient gamers seeking to unfreeze their accounts donated blood and participated in other charitable activities. The event was part of a 10-day campaign launched last Friday by Moli Group Ltd, a Shanghai-based online media and entertainment provider.

As many as 100 players of Cabal, one of Moli's online games, gathered to donate blood at Shanghai's Century Square on Nanjing Pedestrian Street, spurred on by Moli's

promise that all donors would have their accounts immediately restored despite a 30-day ban.

"I've never donated before, and I wouldn't have come except to save my account," a player surnamed "Li" said.

So many players came that the Huangpu Office for Administration of Blood Donations, which organized the event in cooperation with Moli, had to send a fleet of bloodmobiles after their initial unit was overwhelmed.

"We want to encourage gamers to get involved in the real world and learn about the importance of charity. In all likelihood, they spend far too much time on the Internet," Zhao Wei, special assistant to the president of Moli, said.

Moli's offices in Beijing, Hubei, Shandong and Sichuan provinces will launch similar charity drives, Zhao said.

"It's unfair to coerce people into donating blood this way; it should be voluntary," Xia Guomei, a pro-

fessor at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, said. "Charity should never mingle with commercial activities – they're totally different areas," she said.

Moli froze as many as 120,000 Cabal accounts across the nation for abusing trainers, or programs which allow users to hack game states earlier this month. The crackdown was carried in cooperation with crackdown by the Ministry of Information Industry and several other departments.

Custom car contest commences

By Gan Tian

Middle Kingdom motor-heads can register online to submit their works for China International Custom Auto Contest, which kicks off officially on April 9.

The first round of submissions will end in July. During that round, competitors can email their photos of decorated and customized cars. The customized portions may include the exterior, audio system, the engine.

Submitted photos will be voted on online, and the top-ranked car modders will gather in Beijing starting in July for the final competition, where auto experts, designers from various fields and professors will judge the cars.

Enthusiasts can visit yasn.com.cn/zhuanti.htm to download the registration form, and then e-mail in their photos and personal information to ciaace@vip.sina.com.

Organized by YASN International Exhibition, the activity coincides with the China International Auto Accessories and Customization Expo 2007 open at the Beijing National Agricultural Exhibition Center from April 9 to 12.

Ancient Pu'er returns home

By Huang Daohen

Two-and-a-half kilograms of ancient Pu'er Tea, originally sent to Emperor Xianfeng (1831-1861) in Qing Dynasty (1616-1912) as tribute 150 years ago, began its 10,000 mile trip home, yesterday.

After being shown outside the Forbidden City at Maliandao, the capital's tea center, the treasured Pu'er began its trip to present-day Pu'er County in Yunnan Province. Its guard team, composed of 60 people from Yunnan Province and accompanied by six cars, will escort the tea on a 20-day trip through Tianjin, Shandong, Shanghai, Zhejiang and Guangdong.

The tea will arrive in Pu'er on April 8 in time for the eighth Pu'er Tea Festival. Celebrations will be held in each city along the route.

The return-trip, dubbed "Historic Tribute's Return to Pu'er," was initiated by the Pu'er local government.

The tea was discovered in a storehouse of the Forbidden City in the 1960s. When archaeologists examined the storehouse, only the Pu'er Tea was preserved, all the other tea varieties had gone bad.

Pu'er Tea has a long and famous history as imperial tribute, and the region has a profound tea culture. According to records, Pu'er tea began its use as tribute from the Shang (BC1600-BC1300) and Zhou (BC1046-BC256) Dynasties, and later became a popular drink.

During the reign of Emperor Yongzheng (1723-1736) in Qing Dynasty, Pu'er was added to the list of the empress' demands for yearly tribute. Pu'er tea was also sacrificed as part of yearly imperial rites.



Tibetan Mastiffs come

A young Chinese Tibetan Mastiff (CTM) is waiting to take part in the China CTM Expo, which will open this weekend in Langfang, Hebei. More than 200 CTMs worth over 100 million yuan (US\$13 million) in total will be on show.

CFP Photo

Redbrick factory, fashionable interior

By Han Manman

The former "751 Factory" of 798 Art District, two redbrick buildings with two high chimneys, reopened as the new "D-Park" last Sunday.

In strong juxtaposition to the drab exterior, D-Park is the beginnings of a new fashion creation park hosting fashion design, product development and displays.

Five famous designers, including Ayuu Studio, Zeng Fengfei Studio, Liuwei Studio, Wu

Xuwei/Wu Xuekai Studio, 30 young designers, modeling agencies and exhibition design companies have set up shop in D-Park, a spokesperson for the China Fashion Association said.

Construction of the "fashion hub" began in 2006 with a Beijing Municipal Bureau of Industrial Development and China Fashion Association plan to advance fashion in Beijing. After visiting and talking with more than 10 unused

factories, 751 was selected. It took nine months to finish renovations for the fashion center.

The factory was originally constructed as part of the First Five-Year Plan, supported by then East Germany.

Two huge gas tanks, with 67-meter-diameter and several blast furnaces, boilers and transmission pipelines are all that remain to tell the history of Beijing's heavy industry.

Broadway blazes a trail into Chinese

By Jiang Xubo

Broadway is singing in its China debut with a performance of Tony Award-winning *42nd Street* as its inaugural presentation this September, the Nederlanders, Broadway theater owners, announced with its Chinese partner in the capital, Wednesday.

The show will be presented at the Beijing Exhibition Center for several weeks with their original Broadway cast, then will tour the country's seven first-tier cities,

including Shanghai.

Most tickets will be priced between US\$30-40 with student discount tickets available for US\$10-15, Chen Jixin, chairwoman of the Beijing Oriental Broadway International Theatre Management Company (BOBITMC), said.

Set up a year ago, BOBITMC is the first joint venture in performance and theater management since the Ministry of Culture approved foreign investment in the entertainment industry in 2005.

BOBITMC has reached tentative agreements with some two dozen theaters across the country, trying to create a network to facilitate its future tours.

"We're focused on a long-term, country-wide approach to facilities management, programming, ticketing, marketing and audience development to sustain the presentation of first-class Broadway productions across China," Robert Nederlander Sr, chairman of the US-based Nederlander Co, said.

Brief news

First Hong Kong bird flu case in three years

A nine-month-old Hong Kong girl was confirmed as being the first human to contract the H9N2 virus in three years, local health authorities confirmed Tuesday. The girl has recovered.

Beijing ranked 36th international financial center

In a new global study that ranks competitiveness among 46 world financial centers, Beijing ranks 36th and Shanghai ranks 24th. London and New York claimed first and second places in the same study, conducted for the City of London by Z/Yen, a financial consulting firm.

436,000 travel to Beijing

In the first two months of the year, 436,000 overseas travelers passed through the capital, up about seven percent from the same period last year, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics reported.

Sino-French extradition agreement signed

China and France signed a bilateral agreement on extradition, Tuesday, in Paris, when Dai Dingguo, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, visited the country, Xinhua News Agency reported.

(By Jiang Xubo)

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A street vendor still attempts to sell her wares, though her business is now forbidden.



Hawker hordes halted

Great Wall face-lift forces vendors to vacate



From the left to the right: the Badaling section has become more spacious now that local authorities halted hawking; the may-be-removed cabin stands half-way up the mountain offering photo services; four tourists have photos taken atop Badaling; the malls at the foot of the Great Wall are in recession.

Photos by Tian Yufeng

By Huang Daohen

Harassed by wall-goers, a grubby, middle-aged woman tore down the slope in a tizzy.

"You again? Get out of here! I've told you again and again that hawking is forbidden here!" a security guard shouted.

"I'm not selling anything! I'm going home," she cried as she disappeared into the crowd.

The woman was a street vendor operating at the Badaling section of the Great Wall, Wednesday. Vendors are no longer welcome there.

In the past, vendors choked the paths of the wall hawking cheap souvenirs, overpriced drinks, or offering to photograph visitors — for a price. Now vendors are being forced to set up shops elsewhere.

The ban comes as part of an effort to clean up the wall and reconstruct its safeguards, Li Shu-wang, deputy head of the Badaling Special Zone Management Committee, said last Sunday at a news conference. The project will cost 600 million yuan, Li said.

Quiet on the wall

Gone are the days when Badaling was exceptionally crowded and noisy with the pushing and shoving of vendors atop the mountain. As many as 30 former vending stands and booths on the wall

have been moved off the mountain and only about eight cabins remain to offer photo service.

For the malls at Suoyao Square near the north gate, the market is in recession. Several booths

'Too often, people only see the exploitable value of the Great Wall and not its historical value. Generating revenue can't be the plan anymore.'

have closed and vendors kill their afternoons chatting together. The passing of foreign tourists is the only thing that makes the mall spring to life again with the echoes of their shouting.

For more than 30 years, vendors have fought for space at Great Wall to grab the attention of its tens of thousands of visitors. "Vendors are like farmers," a vendor surnamed "Qian" said, "If our stands close, we'll lose our jobs and have nothing to do."

The project aims to move all the stands on the most-visited 7.6 kilometer-long Badaling section to a nearby tourist shopping mall in Yanqing County. Sixty-one vendors with stands beside the wall will also be moved, and the 10,000 square meters they now occupy will become a public display showing the history of the 500-year-old section of the Great Wall.

The upgrade

The newly launched upgrade project, Li said, is being pushed for two reasons: to protect the

area's heritage and to welcome in the upcoming Olympics. Like other sites of historical interest around the world, the deputy said, the Great Wall was threatened by damages both by natural and human-made activities. Close to two thirds of the Great Wall became dilapidated and were used for commercial purposes.

"Our goals here are regulation and conservation. Tourism must be developed with conservation in mind. Too often, people only see the exploitable value of the Great Wall but not its historical value. Generating revenue can't be the plan anymore," he said.

The project, he said, will repair and consolidate the unopened parts of the Great Wall, bury the nearby 2.1-kilometer-long 100,000 volt wire beneath the Great Wall and complete a total of 7.3 kilometers of Badaling transit routes before next May.

The existing 27 toilets will be reclaimed and replaced with three-star standard toilets, which will be free to visitors.

Vendor support, fear

Despite no action having been taken against most vendors, an atmosphere of tension and fear hangs about the once prosperous shopping mall. Removal, compensation and unemployment are the vendors' conversation topics.

"We only hear about the project on TV and in the newspapers. No one has given us any

official notice," a manager surnamed "Zhang," from the Authentic Coffee and Goods stand by the north gate, said. Zhang was hesitant and refused to talk about the reconstruction at first.

The Badaling section of the wall, Zhang said, has been managed by a joint venture company, the Badaling Tourism Development Co Ltd, since 1997. The company mainly sells entrance tickets for the section, and also controls operation of its museums, restaurants and other commercial facilities inside the scenic zone. Local government reclaimed management rights last year when the company's management conflicted with Chinese law on Protection of Cultural Relics.

"However, this confused many of us. We don't even know who we should be paying rent to," Zhang said, "I think the removal may cause some trouble, because we don't know who the owner of our stalls."

Most of the vendors agreed that the project will benefit the wall, but were worried about their future. "My husband and I have been in this business for years, and it's the only thing we know. I have two little kids to support at home, and I have no idea if

my booth is being removed," a woman surnamed Yu said.

Calls to the Yanqing County government office went unanswered.

Tourists' response

While people share the common sense that any efforts to save the Great Wall deserve praise, some people have said the vendors created a carnival-like atmosphere that detracts from the historical experience, or that vendors' actions inherently damage cultural relics.

Staphan, a young German man who visited China for his first time, agreed that the project will be a great help. He complained there were too many vendors stalking him to hawk their wares. "When I refused, some of them grabbed my arm and started cursing," he said, "I think removal of the vendors will help show tourists a brighter image of China."

A woman surnamed Chen, an worker from Xinjiang, saw some value in the vendors' continued presence.

"Keeping service sites on the Great Wall is a good idea, as long as they are moved within the Beacon Towers. Customers may be thirsty after the harrowing climb," she said.

'Vendors are like farmers. If our stands close, we'll lose our jobs and have nothing to do.'

China approves law for private property

Beijing (smh.com.au) – China's legislature passed a milestone property law last Friday, strengthening protection for private businesses and property.

The property law was passed with a vote of 2,799 delegates in favour, 52 opposed and 37 abstaining on the final day of the annual National People's Congress.

The property law had been strongly opposed by a small but highly influential group of scholars and retired communist officials.

They said the law was a threat to the state's guiding role and a vehicle for unrestrained privatization that will feed a growing income gap between rich and poor.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

The property law doesn't protect private properties only, and it has nothing to do with privatization, Wang Liming, a professor from the School of Law of Renmin University of China, said.

"The law actually applies to tangible assets, and the most important thing about it is that it protects all assets without bias, no matter if they are state-owned, group-owned or private," Wang said, "That protection is extended to all assets, as long as they are acquired without violating the laws. The law's fairness also dem-

onstrates itself in that it protects people's property, with no consideration about the differences in their positions in society, or the amount of their properties."

The new law has strengthened protection for private businesses and property, sparking thoughts that the law is providing extra protection to private property.

"People deserve rights to their private property. This is a basic right, which has been neglected in favor of developing a centrally-planned economy. So it makes sense to some extent for the new law to attach

certain emphasis on the protection of private property now in order to stimulate the development of a free market economy," Wang explained, "But obviously it doesn't mean that the law only protects private property, or that it is more inclined to protect private property."

The scholar doubts that the law will lead to privatization.

"Protecting people's private property has little to do with wealth distribution in a society, but it does encourage people to stimulate wealth by assuring their right to the properties they earn."

Beijing to rate Western restaurants for 2008

Beijing (Reuters) – Beijing will rate restaurants, cafes and bars that serve Western food, aiming to help the expected influx of foreign visitors for the 2008 Olympic Games make more informed choices, a newspaper reported on Tuesday.

"This move aims to improve Beijing's Western food services in a short period of time. It is a wonderful opportunity that the 2008 Olympic Games has provided," the *China Daily* quoted Xu Bin of the Beijing Western Food Association as saying.

The report said the ratings would be complete by the end of 2007.

Chinese burn Viagra replicas for randy ancestors

Beijing (AFP) – Chinese cemeteries are selling paper replicas of Viagra pills to be burned for dead relatives as a wish for satisfying sex in the afterlife, state media reported Wednesday.

Customers are snapping up the paper Viagra, as well as images of condoms and heavily made-up bar girls ahead of the annual Tomb Sweeping Festival on April 5, the *Nanjing Morning News* reported.

Chinese people have traditionally burned fake money in honor of dead relatives during the festival, when families clean their ancestors' tombs and graves.

They believe the wealth will accrue to their ancestors in the afterlife.

But China's move toward a more consumer-oriented society has seen new offerings including paper televisions, mobile phones, cars and other luxury items.

A commentary in the *Beijing Morning Post* on Wednesday called for a crackdown on the sex-related "vice" offerings.

Top rivers face mounting threats

(sciencedaily.com) – Rivers on every continent are drying out, threatening severe water shortages, according to a new WWF report.

The report, "World's Top Rivers at Risk," released just before World Water Day on March 22, lists the top 10 rivers that are fast dying as a result of climate change, pollution and dams.

Five of the ten rivers listed in the report are in Asia. They are the Yangtze, Ganges, Indus, the Nu (Salween) River, and the Lancang (Mekong) River.

"Poor planning and inadequate protection of natural areas mean we can no longer assume that water will flow forever. Like the climate change crisis, which now has the attention of business and government, we want leaders to take notice of the emergency facing freshwater, now not later," WWF Global Freshwater Program Director Jamie Pittock said.



Panda to mark Hong Kong anniversary

A pair of pandas for Hong Kong – the male young panda presently identified as No 606 and the female, No 610 – are seen together in the China Panda Protection and Research Center in Wolong, Sichuan, in China's southwest, Tuesday. The Chinese government announced Tuesday that the pair of pandas has been selected and will be sent to the special administrative region before May 1.

IC Photo

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New rules set on financial futures and options

Beijing, March 22 (Dow Jones) – China has expanded the scope of futures rules to make them applicable to financial futures and options, paving the way for introducing the long-awaited stock index futures and other financial derivatives.

The new rules will take effect

April 15, replacing the existing rules, which only apply to commodities futures.

Companies with at least 30 million yuan (US\$3.9 million) worth of registered capital can apply to a State Council-run supervision agency for futures trading licenses, the rules said.

The new rules also apply to foreign firms trading futures domestically, after the People's Bank of China said that the government is planning to open the unfledged local futures market to foreign players.

China banned exchange-traded financial derivatives in

1995 in response to a meltdown in its bond-futures market. Within minutes, US\$10 billion in market value was wiped out, in what remains the country's most damaging market debacle to date. By contrast, the recent plunge in stocks has revived the case for financial futures.

Chinese MP3 products seized at CeBIT

By Huang Daoheng

Chinese MP3 capable products, on exhibition by Aigo, Newman and 10 other Chinese digital companies, were confiscated by customs and police officers at Germany's 2007 CeBIT IT fair last Thursday after suspicion of patent violation.

Confiscated products include MP3 players, MPEG-2 set-top boxes and computer sound boards that Italian company Sisvel claims infringe on a portfolio of their patents.

Sisvel was investigating Asian manufacturers two days before CeBIT 2007 opened on March 12. As many as 12 stands at the fair were scoured, Wu Wenzhen, Senior manager from Hanover CeBIT's China Office, said.

An Aigo spokesman who refused to identify himself said the incident was a misunderstanding.

"This is not the first time a company has been embarrassingly interrupted at a trade show," Wu said. The fair organizers would try to assist the trapped companies.

PriceSmart execs sentenced to life

By Zhao Hongyi

The eight senior managers involved in PriceSmart's two-year-long scandal were sentenced to prison this week in Beijing.

Wu Weidong, former PriceSmart China COO and president, was sentenced to life prison. Sun Bo, the financial manager, was given 16 years, while Ji Ping, former general manager for the Beijing market, received 10 years. The other members were sentenced to terms ranging from two-and-a-half to three years.

The defendants, according to the court verdict, introduced PriceSmart franchises, a hyper-market brand from the US, under license in 1996.

After winning customers' recognition, the group started opening PriceSmart hypermarkets in the country supported by bank loans and suppliers' credit.

In 2004 when the scandal broke, the group had accumulated debts over two billion yuan, and its total assets amounted to less than 200 million.

The eight defendants complained that they were appointed to their positions by Liu Wuyi, the group's chairman, before the scandal broke in 2004.

The chairman has fled to the US to evade indictment under Chinese law.



Photo provided by Linda Jiang

FedEx offers daily domestic express services

By Qiu Jiaoning

Time-definite overnight mail to 19 major Chinese cities will be a reality starting May 28, when FedEx Express starts offering next-business-day domestic express service.

The new domestic service will

serve China's burgeoning market. In addition to the 19 time-definite cities, 200 more cities throughout the country will also get day-definite service, the company announced Wednesday.

"Up to 90 percent of existing FedEx customers in China have

expressed the need for a reliable domestic express service," Eddy Chan, senior vice president of FedEx China, said.

Okay Airways, a domestic carrier, will provide air transportation service to FedEx with a fleet of three dedicated Boeing 737s.

Bank of China ventures private banking

By Huang Daoheng

Bank of China and the Royal Bank of Scotland launched a private banking joint venture, and will begin offering private banking services next Wednesday.

The private banking service targets customers with greater than US\$1 million in personal assets, and will provide elite services with a specially-trained team exclusively for its high-end

clients, Li Lihui, the president of Bank of China, said.

The first two private banking branches will open on March 28 in Beijing and Shanghai. The Beijing branch will be at Jiacheng Square in Chaoyang with a one square kilometer business area.

The bank will expand its operation to other cities in the future, Li said.

"This is a natural extension of Bank of China's existing range of products and services for our wealthy customers.

"At the same time, we establish the first ever private bank exclusively based in China," Li said at the press conference.

Overseas banks such as BNP Paribas, HSBC and Citigroup Inc have already started offering private-banking in China.

Postal savings bank opens

Beijing, March 21 (Dow Jones) – Postal Savings Bank of China opened for business this week, allowing the country's fifth-largest bank by deposits to expand its lending after years of being the deposit-taking arm of the state postal service.

The bank has a network of 36,000 outlets attached to its postal network. The State Council expects the bank to focus on lending to rural clients.

Carlyle takes stake in Xugong

Beijing, March 22 (AP) – US private equity firm Carlyle Group has agreed to buy a 45 percent minority stake in Xugong Group Construction Machinery Co.

In 2005, Carlyle offered US\$375 million for 85 percent of Xugong. Carlyle wanted the investment in order to grow in a market dominated by Caterpillar and Komatsu.

Ashmore buys Beijing Intl Trust

Beijing, March 22 (XFN-ASIA) – The UK-based Ashmore Investment Management Ltd plans to buy a 54.29 percent stake in Beijing International Trust and Investment Co Ltd for 1.71 billion yuan, the *Economic Observer* reported.

It is the first time a foreign investor has held a controlling interest in a Chinese trust company.

Starbucks invests in water project

By Qiu Jiaoning

Starbucks invested US\$600 thousand Thursday to support "Love of Mother Earth, Mother Water Cellars," a project helping women in China's arid regions combat water shortage.

The grant will fund a two-year program to provide training in water safety, sanitation and conservation, as well as establish connections between health, water and women in 14 project sites in five provinces.

Recruitment outlook positive

Chinese employers anticipate steady hiring activity through the second quarter of 2007, especially in service sectors like distribution, telecom, consultancy, legal service, accounting and public relations, according to the latest survey by Manpower Inc.

Employers in the finance, insurance and real estate industries anticipate the weakest hiring activity. The transportation and utilities sectors remain relatively stable.

(By Xie Xiaolin)

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Should a controversial former world champion be forgiven?

Hu Ziwei, a famed Beijing TV anchor, and Ye Yonglie, a science fiction writer and biographer, have recently kicked up a storm by arguing whether He Zhili, the former Chinese world ping pong champion who played under the Japanese name Koyama Chire for her adopted country in the 1994, should be forgiven or not. The storm brings this controversial figure from the past back into the eye of a swirling public argument.

Ye, alleged to be He's friend, wrote a blog-post entitled, "I want to have a home" over the last few weeks, defending He as an ordinary woman who should be forgiven.

After *Xinmin Weekly* published the essay, it was quickly re-posted at EastDay.com. There were more than 500 comments within two hours.

Some angry young men cursed Ye's behavior quite harshly, saying that it is not good

for Ye's reputation to be mixed up with a Chinese "traitor."

Hu also echoed similar sentiments in a talk show that ran last Sunday, alleging that He's behavior should not be forgiven.

He, a world-champion ping-pong player, left the Chinese national team after refusing to throw matches to teammates.

She moved to Japan after she failed to make it to the Chinese team for the 1988 Olympics, and married a Japanese ping pong coach, whom she has divorced.

In the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, He beat China's world top two ranked players Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong to claim the singles title, and since then has been called "turncoat" and "traitor."

Recently the Chinese government has come to recognize the former Chinese player as a "Chinese ping pong ambassador."

(Source: Xinhua News Agency and Danwei.org)



Koyama Chire (He Zhili) of Japan in action at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. The former Chinese ping pong world champion married a Japanese man and defeated her former compatriots for Japan in the 1990s. She divorced years ago and has become a hot topic again in China.

CFP Photo

Comment

As for whether this author (Ye Yonglie) is truly acting out of a desire to give Koyama Chire a place to spend her waning years, or if he has some other motive, I will not be so rash as to speculate here. However, I believe that Koyama Chire should not be pardoned.

— Hu Ziwei, anchor from Beijing TV

I've gotten the chance to read Hu Ziwei's post. This piece assumes a certain degree of familiarity with the situation on the part of the

reader; Hu never calls He Zhili by her Chinese name. Her decision to keep the surname Koyama even after her divorce has rubbed some people the wrong way, as Hu notes in her piece.

— Duy

I really wonder whether some Chinese are angry at this woman's lack of patriotic spirit and team play or at this woman's desire to marry a Japanese man and move there? Why not consider that she was also a weak woman?

— nachuan

She reminds me of Jenny Lang

Ping who is current coach of the US national volleyball team. Lang is a professional athlete who has coached many clubs overseas. She handles volleyball in the US and makes it a great opponent for China. Therefore, isn't Lang also a "traitor?"

— maggi

It seems that He Zhili had an argument with team management and decided to defect to Japan, but she isn't the only one to butt heads with management. Think about Tian Liang, Guo Jingjing and Yang Yang? People who are opposed to He Zhili need to grow

up and realize the nature of professional sport. If Ronaldo were sick of playing second fiddle to Ronaldinho on the Brazilian national side and wanted to defect to China, would Team China refuse?

— Xiao Zhu

Some things cannot be forgiven, and history cannot be forgotten. We have yet to see an apology from her for those events. The name Koyama Chire is still being used today.

— loveChina

Many Chinese fans have a hard time understanding why she

would continue to use the Japanese name even after her divorce from her ex-husband Koyama Hideyuki. He Zhili explains that the name "Koyama Chire" is quite well known in Japan, and in addition, filing papers to change it would be a hassle. So she has never changed it.

— Ye Yonglie, fiction writer

I used to admire Ye's writing. But Ye seems to let his personal feelings overcome his sense of national righteousness. That is unwise.

— CLB

(By Huang Doahen)



MSN celebrates its Chinese website channel's increase from eight to twelve last December in Beijing.

CFP Photo

Join 'i'm', to help Microsoft promote itself?

By Chen Shasha

This month, a green "i'm" sign appeared in front of many MSN users' display names. Although last week some local media reported that no Chinese users could make donations when joining the "i'm" activity, many people didn't stop using the green sign this week.

"i'm" is a new initiative from Windows Live Messenger. When people place a text code which refers to a world-renowned organization before their MSN dis-

play names, a donation will be given to one of the organizations, which are mainly based in America and working on poverty, child protection, disease, and environmental degradation. In the campaign, each organization has a special code, such as "red+u" for the American Red Cross and "naf" for National the AIDS Fund. Every time people start a conversation using "i'm," Microsoft shares a portion of the program's advertising revenue with some of the organizations. According to

Feng Jinhu, PR officer of Microsoft's Beijing branch, his company will handle all the donations and give the money directly to help those organizations. The money, at a minimum US\$100,000, will be given according to how widely the name of the organization is used.

In China, the introduction of the campaign was first noted in a net user's blog on March 2, and was soon widely known. As of last week, more than 50 percent of Chinese MSN users have joined "i'm."

However, some pointed out that it was actually a promotion of Microsoft, since only those who download MSN 8.1 could see the green signs on their computer. It also caused a lot of debate last week, when local media said only American people could help create donations by entering the text code.

Feng said this Tuesday that they had no plan to link Chinese people's computers to the donations yet, but many people have treated it as a trend and are still actively joining it.

Comment

It is so funny. It's like a voting. From looking at my friends' text code, I can easily know which areas they are most concerned about. People were divided into different groups by the text code they used. I like it because I could easily know who's the same as me from a simple sign.

— Lin Ling, media worker

I found myself "out of the loop"

when my friend mentioned "i'm" while I'd never heard of it. So I quickly joined.

— Angie, University teacher

It could be a successful commercial project. As Microsoft said on their website, the campaign is not a huge expensive way, not a time-consuming way, but a simple and effective way, thus it's attracted many people to join.

It is a kind of promotion for MSN 8.1. In fact, I never planned

to update my MSN to 8.1 until the "i'm" activity happened, and then I had no choice. How clever the company is!

— Bluecat

New age people always like to join a community.

For example, I heard that there are some guys joining hundreds of groups at Douban.com. They just treat the group as an identity, and thus let new friends easily know what kind of person

they are from the group they belong to. That could be why many people are joining "i'm," despite the fact that no donations are made.

It also could be a smart way to clarify advertisement. People might never think that they had been targeted as consumers just by putting different text codes on their display name.

— Liu Jinguang, Donews.com

In fact, not everyone has the

financial ability to give money to the causes they care about. That is where the "i'm" initiative steps in — it enables Windows Live Messenger users to make a difference by directing a portion of Messenger's advertising revenue to a cause of their choosing. It is Microsoft's commitment to giving back to the world that makes me feel warm and fuzzy about my job.

— Nicole, officer of Microsoft

Krushchev granddaughter talks Nabokov in 798



Nina L Khrushcheva

Photo by Tian Yufeng

By Huang Daohen

The granddaughter of former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, Nina L Khrushcheva, came to Beijing yesterday for a readers' exchange meeting at Cave Cafe in 798 Art District as the second part of her China tour.

She shared her ideas on famed author Vladimir Nabokov, and was quoted by the *South Metropolitan Weekly* as having said in Shantou, Tuesday, that Nikita Khrushchev was a great man, and should not be considered guilty.

The event, titled "Coming nearer to Nabokov," was jointly hosted by Douban.com and the Yangtze River School of Journalism and Communications at Shantou University (YRSJC), Shandong. Khrushcheva was invited by YRSJC to visit to China from March 18 to 27. Her tour will continue on to Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Beijing tour

Beijing is Khrushcheva's second talk after her Monday lecture in Shantou. In the spacious cafe, readers scrambled to enter even before the meeting began.

When she entered, some readers shouted, "I never imagined she was so young and fashionable!"

Dressed in a black suit with a lattice scarf wrapped about her neck, she began the meeting. "It was totally beyond the more 'academic' image I'd imagined," one of the readers whispered.

Khrushcheva stunned the readers with her humor and wise words. She turned around several readers' questions with new questions when asked why she liked Nabokov.

On Nabokov

Turning to Nabokov's *Lolita* and questions about his famous books, Khrushcheva showed great interest and answered questions brilliantly, drawing warm applause from her audience. She said she was very interested in Nabokov, and regards her relationship with him as a kind of "unreal love."

Khrushcheva lauded Nabokov and said he represents the future of Russia. Once, she wrote that, "Mr Bush should read more Nabokov than Pushkin."

Memory of grandfather

In the interactive session, many readers tried to ask her impression of her grandfather Nikita Khrushchev. Nevertheless, Khrushcheva seemed to show more interest in literature and hedged to mention her family ties.

Her grandfather, the former Soviet Premier, died in 1971 when she was a little girl. She said he should not be considered guilty, because his only crime was opposition to Stalin worship.

Khrushcheva's profile

Khrushcheva is a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute of the New School for Social Research, and an adjunct associate professor at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

She received her degree from Moscow State University with a major in Russian and minor in English and Italian in 1985, and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Princeton University in 1997.



Shany greeted her Chinese fans with an autograph session.

Photo by Nadav Eshcar

Elderly 'Beauty Queen' returns to China



Ruth Shany

Photo by Zhang Wei

By Chen Shasha

Former Shanghai Beauty Queen of 1948 Ruth Shany, a Jewish woman, returned to China last weekend for her third trip to the country, this time fulfilling her dream of a solo exhibition to thank the Chinese people for saving her during World War II.

Shany's exhibition was held in 798 Art District last Saturday, with 36 Chinese silk paintings on display. She said she studied silk painting in Shanghai, and continued the art after moving to Israel.

The exhibition, named *Back to China with Love*, has long been Shany's dream, but she never realized it until two years ago, when she met an officer from the Embassy of Israel in Beijing in her home country.

"We found both her paintings and experience attractive, and decided it was time to help the 84-year-old lady fulfill her dream," Nadav Eshcar, press officer of Israel embassy, said.

Living history

Shany, named "Most Admired Woman of the Decade" by the American Biographical Institute, was born to a Jewish family in Berlin, Germany. When Adolf Hitler rose to power under the banner of the Nazi Party, her life was forever changed. In 1933, she moved to Prague, Czechoslovakia, with her family. A year later, Hitler announced Jews could enjoy a peaceful life

in Germany, and Shany's father, a soldier in the German Army, was quick to believe him. But Hitler never fulfilled that promise, and Shany's and other Jewish families suffered under his Nazi regime. In 1939, her family found a chance to board an Italian ship, and after three weeks, they landed in Shanghai.

"We didn't know what would happen to us in the new country, but we had no choice, since Shanghai was the only port in the world open to us and 20,000 other Jewish people," she said. Her family lost all their belongings in Germany and lived in a Shanghai refugee camp. In 1941, her mother died in poverty.

Finding her muse

She began work at 15 to earn a living. Like her mother, she did needlework, and later worked in a bookstore. Her life changed one day when she met an art professor who taught her Chinese silk painting. "I was attracted by the art and studied hard, and from that time on, I began to visit galleries, music halls and enjoy Shanghai life with his help," Shany said.

Even after she left Shanghai in 1949, the two remained in touch until he died.

Shanghai is a special place for Shany, not only for her art teacher. "My older son was born there, and I took first golden prize in a 'Beauty Queen' competition in Hongkou District, and won a prize I treasure even now," she said.

Shany always treasures happy memories. "When we met her, her beauty made it hard to imagine that she once suffered so much. All her paintings were happy and colorful. Even her painting titled *The Dead Sea* showed red flowers and hope. It makes her special," Eshcar said.

After her 798 exhibition, Shany visited Shanghai. She said she was glad to see the old building where she and other Jewish people lived was still there, and that it has come under UNESCO's protection. She said she hopes to return again.

Discounts to celebrate EU 50th anniversary

By Han Manman

European supermarkets, hotels and restaurants in China will offer "birthday promotions" to customers in celebration of the EU's fiftieth anniversary, this Sunday.

The anniversary celebration will be observed in as many as 800 stores in 29 provinces and regions across China.

Customers will not only get great bargains at Ikea, Dia and Swarovski, but will also have a chance to "meet and talk" with European Ambassadors and Consuls, and to have their pictures taken with them at stores.

Branches of Metro, DHL, Hymall Tesco, and also European airlines such as Austrian, Air France-KLM and Lufthansa will hand out postcards and small give-aways to their customers. At many hotels, such as Novotel, Mercure, Kempinski, Sofitel, Swissotel and restaurants, guests can sample European delicacies as a special promotion.

"I am happy that the EU's diplomatic missions in China, chambers of commerce and so many European companies have joined hands to celebrate the EU's fiftieth anniversary together with our Chinese friends," German Ambassador to China Volker Stanzel said at yesterday's press conference to announce the campaign.

He said that 50 years ago, pre-



EU Ambassador to China Serge Abou (left) and German Ambassador to China Volker Stanzel (right) jointly announce great bargains at European supermarkets, hotels and restaurants to celebrate EU's 50th anniversary will be available Sunday.

Photo by Deng Jia

vious generations set down a path to peace and prosperity for Europe. The EU's development and success story has promoted good relations with China.

"The EU is very active in China in environmental protection, social and economic reform and legal

cooperation. It's also China's biggest trading partner, and therefore, very fitting that we celebrate this special day with our friends here," Serge Abou, EU ambassador to China, said.

Fifty years ago, six European countries met in Rome to

found the EU, a family of democratic European countries committed to working together for peace and prosperity.

Since 1957, the EU has grown from six to now 27 member nations, with Bulgaria and Romania its latest additions.

UNDP cleans up rural water

By Qiu Jiaoning

Rural regions may see an improvement in water quality on the way thanks to a joint project between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) China and the Ministry of Water Resources to formulate a new water governance scheme, UNDP China announced yesterday, World Water Day 2007.

"It's estimated that over 300 million rural Chinese residents still have no access to safe drinking water, and face problems with water shortage and severe contamination," Khalid Malik, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China, said.

"The remaining challenges are less related to water access

than to the quality of what is accessed and sustainability of its continued use. Pollution of water sources is a widespread and increasingly serious problem," he said.

The program, titled "Improve Water Resources Management and Drinking Water Safety in Rural Regions of China," aims to improve water resource planning and management mech-

anisms, to improve access to quality drinking water in rural China and to increase water pollution management and prevention, ecological restoration and agricultural development capacity, Malik said.

Around 700 million people in 43 countries suffer from water shortage, and by 2025, this figure could hit three billion people, according to the UN.

Poet diplomat shares Cameroon culture



Mouandjo talks about his poem and the true story behind it.

By Han Manman

Visitors at the French Cultural Center got a taste of Cameroon's

culture when Ebenezer Mouandjo held a Wednesday night poetry reading.

Mouandjo, a diplomat at the Embassy of Cameroon in Beijing, dressed in a traditional Cameroonian aba, read six of his favorite works for attendees. He began the readings in a chair, but as the session wore on and tension built, he took the stage and walked around making expressive motions. His performance drew smiles, applause and a few sighs from the audience.

Although Mouandjo has only been in China for two months, his extreme love of poetry hasn't failed to grab the attention of colleagues, who put him on the stage.

"We hope Ben can be our 'cultural emissary' to introduce Cameroon's poetry to China," Georges Bekono Nkoa, Cameroon's counselor of culture, said.

Mouandjo became enamored

with poetry as a freshman in Cameroon. "I majored in diplomacy. When I was a freshman, I used to walk around campus and saw poems on the walls," he said. Those poems inspired him to write his own.

"When I saw those poems, I couldn't feel anything. There was something lacking in the poems. So, I asked myself, why not try writing a poem with 'true feeling,'" he said.

Since then, Mouandjo has regularly composed poems in both French and in English. "One of my beloved English poems named 'About a precious friend' recalls my friendship with a Dutch girl," he said, adding that it is one of unfulfilled love.

Photo provided by Cameroon Embassy

IOM opens new liaison office in China

By He Jianwei

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) opened a new liaison office in Beijing to strengthen its cooperation with the Chinese government on migration issues, Monday.

The agreement to open the office was signed in September 2006, Gerard R Pascua, special envoy of the IOM director-general and first head of liaison office, said.

As a fast-developing economic power, China will have increasing impact on both transnational and internal migration. "Beijing has become a crossroads," he said, "As the Olympic Games approach, more and more foreigners will flock to China."

"We will not sell our programs or seek project funds in China, but provide experts and advice to ensure China's migration problems can be tackled," he said, "We will help the Chinese government handle migration issues in many ways, through training and capability building."

Established in 1951 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the IOM is the principal intergovernmental organization involved in migration. It has 120 member countries and 19 observers. China became an observer in June 2001.

British curators take artistic tour across China

By Jackie Zhang

A journey across China by 21 experienced, contemporary art curators from museums, galleries and art centers in Britain ends tomorrow in Hong Kong.

The tour began last weekend in Beijing. During the weeklong trip, they visited art centers and galleries in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. Each city is an important and famous art base in China.

Miriam Jansen, program manager of Yorkshire Artspace Society, said she enjoyed each city on the trip.

"Beijing is artistic and energetic; Shanghai is ambitious and flourishing; Guangzhou is warm and open," she said.

"We've talked with several curators, artists and directors for art institutions and galleries. They are warm and open to suggestions, and provided us all with information and catalogs of their galleries," Jansen said.

"Chinese contemporary art is still in its youth. However, there's no need to rush it to improve," Philip Long, senior curator of Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, said. "We've seen many Chinese contemporary artworks. Some are traditional Chinese style and others European style. I think it will take time for them to find their own way."

The event is part of China-UK Connections through Culture, a joint initiative between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the UK, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office London and the British Council, with support from the Scottish Executive.

A fun dance gathering night for Scottish Ceilidh

By Annie Wei

At 7:30pm on Saturday, groups of two or three walked up to the third floor of the Capital Club.

The three-floor building is another part of the Capital Club, apart from the VIP rooms on the 50th floor of the Capital Building that used to be considered one of the top four clubs in town.

The hallway of the third floor is already packed with people, signing their names, paying fees and getting drinks from the tables.

This was a Ceilidh night organized by the Beijing Caledonian Society. They are a group of people in Beijing who enjoy Scottish music and dancing – and having fun. The society has been in Beijing for many years. Ian Kay, a Scottish businessman in Beijing and one of the society's members, said, "The original one in Beijing can be traced back to the 1920s. After that it goes by different names."

Kay, wearing a kilt, said it was a tradition for Scottish people. "When Scottish people leave their motherland and settle in the other places, they will start the dancing tradition. Other cities in China, like Shanghai and Hong Kong, have similar organizations," Kay said.

Among the guests, there were a few kilt-wearing Scots. Clare McDouall, a member of the society and its contact person, said there



Ritchie King (the man in the middle), from an international school in Beijing, wearing a kilt, is dancing a Scottish step at the Capital Club.
Photo by Tian Yufeng

would be five or six dancing events like this within the year, and two would be larger-scale. The big events are expected to have more than 200 guests.

"It's not just for Scottish people in Beijing. In fact, the event is open to everyone. People with different nationalities are welcome to join us," McDouall said.

There were around 100 guests from many other countries, German, French, Danish, as well as Chinese people, at the Ceilidh. The dance started at a quarter to eight. Ritchie King, from an international school, and Ian Kay, both Scots, were responsible for dance calling, which means watching the music and giving instructions. The

Scottish dance was a fun gathering. The style is not too challenging for newcomers, but allows chances to dance for everyone in the ballroom.

The whole night was scheduled around dancing, dining, dancing and relaxing, having fun and drinks, as well as chatting with friends.



Jason Hicks (third from right, lead singer of Bugz in the Attic) had fun with fans at Shanghai's Absolute House last Thursday.
Photo provided by SplitWorks

Bringing a new musical experience to China

By Annie Wei

Bugz in the Attic, from London, just finished their tour in China last weekend. The organizer quickly announced their next event, Sonic Youth's April tour of Beijing and Shanghai. With different cultural, musical, theatrical and artistic events happening in these two top Chinese cities everyday, what's so special about these?

The organizer, Split Works, answers with the ideas that world-class live music brings. It's a small company run by some expats and based in Shanghai and Beijing.

Widdowson said that the purpose of Split Works was to bring good live music to China. They believe that China is at the beginning of the next generation of music – live music. "We are concentrating our attention on attracting Chinese audiences. We want and expect that the expat audience will go because they are used to this type of entertainment and often know the bands we are

bringing. And we want the Chinese audience to come to see these bands as well," Widdowson said.

Archie Hamilton, though lacking perfect Chinese language abilities, has become a known-face in Shanghai's underground music world. He makes friends quickly with China's underground music bands. "It's going to be a whole new experience. All the bands that we have lined up are spectacular live and have proved it on the world stage. The young Chinese people who like music won't know this kind of music yet, but I guarantee they will by the time we are finished," Hamilton said.

It's no easy endeavor. The bands they bring in are not superstars, but independent groups with good music and minimal promotion and packaging. Split Works has to work out the budget to cover these bands, get sponsorship to keep ticket prices down and attract more Chinese young people and navigate the obstacles that come with bringing foreign music bands to China.

Spanish pianist warms up Spanish Culture Year

By Gan Tian

As the warm-up activity for Spanish Culture Year in China, David Gómez held a piano concert in the Institute Cervantes of Beijing, Wednesday evening.

Born in 1974, the Spanish pianist gave his first concert at the age of 14. His first album, *A Piazzolla Tangos para Piano*, was presented successfully in the European capitals, and his performances have gained international recognition. The pianist played classical music, including *Tangos para piano*, *Sonata en Do M n. 1*, *Allegro de Concierto*, and *Danzas Gitanas* for Beijing audience.

"I have a good feeling here," Gómez said. The musician said he was very impressed with the Institute Cervantes of Beijing, as it is something of a holy place for cultural communications. "I guess I will make audience happy here with my music," he said, "I'll do my best."

Elisa Reche Vicente of the Institute Cervantes of Beijing said the pianist would also give a concert at Beijing University on Saturday.

In order to let Chinese people know more about Spain, this year has been proclaimed "Spanish Culture Year." The Spanish Embassy will schedule a series of activities, including exhibitions, dances, concerts



David Gómez
Photo by Gan Tian

and many other activities in major cities of China. The detailed schedule will be open to the public in early April.

"It's nice for me to open the Spanish Year, of course, to have this opportunity to introduce Chinese audiences to Spanish music," David Gómez said.

Events

The fifth anniversary meeting of Beijing Macintosh User Group

This is the place to meet with other Macintosh users and fans around Beijing. There will be a lot of special Mac events, including the latest Mac and iPod technology demos and a small Mac museum, with machines dating back to Macs from the early 1990s.

Where: Asia Hotel, No 8 Xinzhong Xi Jie, Gongti Beilu, Dongcheng

When: 3-7pm, March 24

For more information: beimac.com/5/

Ziggy Marley concert

Reggae's favorite son and four-time Grammy award winner Ziggy Marley will perform for the first time ever in China. He will perform material from his new 2007 Grammy-winning album *Love is My Religion* in addition to songs from his previous solo album *Dragonfly*.

Where: Star Live, the third floor of No 79 Hepingli Xi Lu, Dongcheng

When: 8pm, March 26

Cost: 280 yuan, 380 yuan, 480 yuan

Tel: 6425 5166

Literary Festival: Zhang Lijia interviews Xu Xi

Local author Zhang Lijia talks to US-based Chinese writer Xu Xi on her work and that of other Chinese female writers. Xu is currently a guest lecturer in creative writing at Hong Kong University. She comes to Beijing fresh from appearing on a discussion panel at the Hong Kong literary festival on Chinese writers, where her fellow panelists included Amy Tan and Guo Xiaolu.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, March 26

Tel: 6586 9507

Debate: Chinese Children and Education

Chinese families and experts will join the discussion and debate on children's education in China. Parents and children will tell their school and family stories and share their thoughts. Their talk will be interpreted into English.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30-9pm, March 28

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341

Discussion: Creating a Sense of Place in Literature

China-based writers Paul French and Adam Williams get together to discuss two very different ideas on how to recreate a geographical setting in their writing, be it contemporary Pyongyang for French, or Boxer Rebellion-era Shanghai for Williams.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, March 28

(By He Jianwei)

Rent a car in Beijing



Prices on different types of cars are shown at a car rental company.

CFP Photo

By Gan Tian

Compared with more mature developed countries, China's car rental infrastructure is only a newborn baby. However, if you really need wheels, you can still find some surprises in Beijing's market. What if you don't have a car but want to drive? Rent one!

Things you should prepare

If you only want to rent a car on your own for a one-or-two-day excursion, you should first find a guarantor who has a Beijing *hukou*, and prepare the following materials for the car rental services: passport, Beijing driving license, deposit, your guarantor's *hukou* book and his or her ID card.

If you are a representative of a foreign company in Beijing and want to rent a car for long time use, the things you should prepare include the script of registration, a certificate and a letter of guarantee from your company headquarters, your employee card, ID card (a copy and the script) of the chief representative of your company's Beijing branch, and the seal. Note that if losses occur during the rental, you will be responsible.

How to rent and return

If you are determined to rent a car, go straight to the car rental

company with the prepared materials. You will need to wait at most two days for verification of the documents.

After all your materials are checked and the company agrees to rent you the car, you can go there to select one. Then, sign the rental agreement and pay the deposit and rental charges. Then, the company will hand over your car and you can enjoy your auto trip.

When you return your car, the company will inspect the car's condition to make sure that you have not damaged it. After payment, your car rental agreement is closed, and the deal is done.

No car-return service from another city yet

Most companies do not allow you to rent cars in Beijing and return them in another city. "The cost is very high, including oil, tolls and others. Just imagine, if you drive to Shanghai, we have to drive it back. The cost will be included in the rental, which will be very high. That's why we don't have this service. It's also because this industry is not mature enough in China," said a staff member at the Northern Star Car Rental Company.

She also mentioned that only

low-level cars could be rented to foreigners. If you want a more comfortable car, you have to rent a driver from the company at same time. Considering

that foreigners are not familiar with Beijing's road conditions and traffic signs, the company makes this decision to protect its cars.

General prices at some big car rental agencies in town

Hertz Beijing

The deposit varies according to the type of car. The rental for VW Jetta is 340 yuan (US\$44) per day. You can frequently get discounts, especially on long-term rentals. A car with a driver for eight hours costs 540 yuan (US\$70) per day, depending on the distance and time. Credit cards are accepted.

Tel: 6595 8109

Where: No 5, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Northern Star Car Rental Company

The deposit is generally 10,000 yuan (US\$1,293). An Audi A6 goes for 1,200 yuan (US\$155) for eight hours and 15,800 yuan (US\$2,043) per month (with the driver).

Tel: 8499 2878

Where: No 8, Beichen Dong Lu, Chaoyang

Beijing Beiqi Taxi

Beiqi offers short and long-term leases on locally-made cars. A VW Jetta costs 400 yuan (US\$52) per day with a driver and 5,500 yuan (US\$711) per month without a driver, while an Audi A6 is 12,800 (US\$1,655) monthly. Only cash is accepted.

Tel: 6616 0198

Where: Northeast corner of Guanyuan Bridge, No 28 Xizhimen Nan Dajie, Xicheng

Beijing airport will carry on stricter regulations on liquids

By Jiang Xubo

Passengers will not be allowed to carry more than one liter of liquid onto planes starting May 1, according to the General Administration of Civil Aviation's new measurements in response to the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) new guidelines for security control.

All liquids, gels or aerosol items in cabin baggage have to be separately carried in containers,

each with a capacity not greater than 100ml. And all the containers have to be packed in a transparent and re-sealable plastic bag whose maximum capacity does not exceed one liter.

Every passenger can carry only one such bag, which has to be presented separately for security examination when checking in. Passengers have to check other items that cannot be carried in the bag, the mea-

sures demanded.

The regulations also apply to overseas passengers with layovers in the country's airports. Their duty-free goods, which are brought from out of the country, have to be carried in similar bags, which must be intact and sealed. Receipts are also essential.

Exemptions can be made for medications, and baby milk or food, subject to the airports' verification.

All alcohol has to be checked too.

The ICAO recommended adopting stricter measurements on screening liquids, gels and aerosols worldwide last December, after the British police foiled an August plot, which was believed to have involved the component parts of an improvised explosive device, including a home-made liquid explosive.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

It was nice to read the article "How to book your olympic tickets online" in the last *Beijing Today*, but unfortunately, you did not give the web address. Can you provide it again so we can start our profile to book tickets?

To catch up with the latest and comprehensive information about the 2008 Beijing Olympics, you can go to tickets.beijing2008.cn, and click the "English" button for non-Chinese speakers. I decided to travel from Beijing to south China by train because it's cheaper. So, what's the difference between a hard sleeper and a soft one?

In terms of price, a hard sleeper is much cheaper than a soft one. Generally speaking, there are six beds (three on each side) in a cabin for hard sleeper, while there are only four for the soft. The mattress in the soft sleeper is much wider and softer. However, a hard sleeper is more fun for meeting different kinds of people in the train, especially on long trips, as long as you take care of your belongings.

I have an academic meeting in Hong Kong next month. My friends told me that flights from Beijing to Shenzhen are much cheaper than those directly from Beijing to Hong Kong. How do I get to Hong Kong from the Shenzhen airport?

You can ask people at the information desk where to take the express bus to Hong Kong, and they will point you the right direction. The bus costs around 80 yuan or so. You can also try to take the ferry from Shenzhen, also close to the airport and goes directly to Tsi Sha Tsui. The ferry is 200 yuan per person for one way, and takes around 50 minutes.

I took a lot of photos with the kids in Henan during my AIDS volunteer program. Do you know a place that I can develop these photos, so I can send them to the kids?

Most neighborhoods have one or two Kodak shops. You can develop your photos there.

I heard that the Blackberry has come to China, but I seldom see them. Can you provide more details on this? I want to know the price, and whether you can get good replacement parts and services in China if it is not working well.

China Mobile has a Blackberry service with two packages: you pay 398 yuan per month for 50MB of traffic, or you can have 400MB of traffic for 598 yuan. For extra traffic, you will be charged 0.01 yuan per KB, but you'll incur international calling fees if you are abroad. As an individual user, you need to get your Blackberry from Hong Kong or other countries. China Unicom has a cheaper deal for cell phones with push mail functions. They charge 10 yuan per month for a 50MB mail box. Sending an email costs 0.1 yuan, but receiving emails is free.

(By Wei Ying)

Aftershock el

By Jackie Zhang

Dozens of British works at the heart of a decade of media melee and personal and artistic feuds – including paintings, sculptures, photographs and videos – are now on display at the Capital Museum for the exhibition “Aftershock.” These works are specially selected for a Chinese audience, and reveal the artists’ experiences and thinking, as well as the development of British contemporary art through the 1990s to the present.



A history of British modern art

In the 90s, British art experienced a revolution: the appearance of Young British Artists (YBA).

“In Britain, art used to be artists’ art. Artists might become intoxicated with their own achievements, but their achievements had no influence on society and couldn’t push art’s development. Most people thought that art had nothing to do with them,” Colin Chinnery, chief curator and deputy director of Ullens Center for the Arts and one of the curators of Aftershock, said.

In 1988, a group of young artists led by Damien Hirst, all students of Goldsmiths College, held a group exhibition, “Freeze,” in an east London storehouse. “This exhibition could be regarded as the start of British contemporary art’s revolution,” Chinnery said.

The YBA emerged from several excellent art colleges, like the Royal Academy of Arts, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design and Goldsmiths College. These colleges provided students with a free atmosphere and encouraged them to learn and to do what they liked.

Students at Goldsmiths were told that they were artists from the moment they entered the campus. There were no strict rules for study. They were free to come to any classes they were interested in. The curricu-

lum gave these students chances to see many things and then cultivate themselves in a specific area.

“By the mid-90s, YBAs began routinely winning the Turner Prize, a top contemporary art award held at the renowned Tate Britain, the national gallery of British art,” Chinnery said, “The result was a firestorm of media attention and controversy.” Some argued that the prize shouldn’t have been given to such puzzled and nonsensical works. “Suddenly art was related to people’s life and to society at large,” Chinnery said.

The YBA, including Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin and Chris Ofili, became a focus of society. Collectors started buying their works. In 1997, millionaire and gallery owner Charles Saatchi held an exhibition of YBA works called “Sensation” at Royal Academy of Arts. The exhibition attracted crowds, and people’s attention.

In 2000, Tate Britain opened the Tate Modern from a refurbished power station in the heart of London; the museum was made for British contemporary art. Thereafter, the burgeoning audi-

ence for contemporary art had a place to sate its curiosity.

The beginnings of Aftershock

In 2000, the British Council organized a sculpture exhibition by Henry Moore, a famous British modern sculptor, in Beihai Park in Beijing. In 2003, they invited another British artist, Antony Gormley, to China. Gormley, together with more than

300 citizens in Guangzhou, created 200,000 palm-sized mud figures. The mud figures were exhibited in Guangzhou, Shanghai,

Beijing and Chongqing.

“We want to hold an exhibition which can wholly reflect the condition of British contemporary art,” said Neil Webb, director of Arts in China for the British Council. “We have a program sending Chinese curators to Britain for study and exchange. About five to six years ago, when a group of Chinese curators came back thinking about collaborating with British artists, we started to prepare for this exhibition, to show a Chinese audience how British contemporary art has developed in the past decade.”

Webb said that the 12 artists

they invited for “Aftershock” were prominent and influential in Britain at present. “It was really difficult to invite them for the exhibition because they no longer take part in group exhibitions. But they finally accepted our invitation to present their works in China because they know the importance of the Chinese market.”

“Assembling the collection was difficult, since the pieces are displayed all around Britain; there was a lot of communication and negotiation with galleries before we could bring them to China,” Webb said.

“It is really a nice opportunity for Chinese audiences and artists,” Pi Li, one of the curators of “Aftershock,” said, “YBAs are free to create their own work. Their thinking is new and they make use of different materials. I think there are aspects that Chinese artists should learn from.” Li noted that all of the 12 featured artists are quite famous. “I believe that few of our Chinese artists have had a chance to see their work – until ‘Aftershock.’”

“We thought up the name of the exhibition together,” Chinnery said, “I think that the revolution of British contemporary art is like an earthquake. It not only shocked British art and artists, but the aftershock of the earthquake will influence other places in the world.”

‘They finally accepted our invitation to present their works in China because they know the importance of Chinese market.’



Damien Hirst, *Girls, Who Like Boys, Who Like Boys, Who Like Girls, Like Girls, Like Boys*

Girls, Who Like Boys, Who Like Boys, Who Like Girls, Like Girls, Like Boys



Douglas Gordon, *Croque Mort*, 2000, Photograph, 91x134.5cm

Top four (left to right)

Ubermensch, Jack and Dinos Chapman, 1995, sculpture, 366cmx183cmx183cm

Suffolk Bunny, Sarah Lucas, 1997-2004, sculpture, 96cmx64cmx72cm

Royal Ascot, Mark Wallinger, 1994, video installation, 3 minutes 41 seconds

10ms-1, Douglas Gordon, 1994, video installation, 20 minutes 57 seconds

Croque Mort

Douglas Gordon’s work explores ethical dichotomies such as religion and faith, good and evil, innocence and guilt, life and death.

Gordon works with original and found cinematic footage, as well as other media, including video, photography, text and sculpture.

Croque Mort extends Gordon’s interest in using his own body as a ground of investigation; its subject is his newly born daughter. Repetition is also an ongoing interest in Gordon’s work, and this series of seven photographs provides a powerful self-contained visual installation. The works are installed in a wholly red room,

like a cinema room with its red carpet, or the inside of a womb.

A “croque mort,” or undertaker in French, would bite the feet of the recently deceased to check whether they were dead, hence the appellation “one who bites the dead.” In this series, Gordon’s daughter playfully bites her own feet and fingers, but with the extreme close up and with the addition of the sinister title, what is simply a newborn’s natural checking of its physical existence actually turns into a reminder of our physical mortality. What could be a sentimental series of images of a baby is turned into an unexpected experience.



Tracey Emin, *There's A Lot of Money in Chairs*, 1994, Sculpture, 69x53.5x49.5cm

ectrifies



s, Who Like Boys, Who Like Girls, Like Girls, Like Boys, 2006, Painting, 213.36cm (84 inches) each

Damien Hirst has had extensive international visibility as Britain's most influential artist. He has always had an interest in the relation between science and art. He often incorporates elements from the medical world in his work; his "spot" paintings mimic pharmaceutical color coding. However, Hirst has also frequently used everyday materials in his work, such as office furniture and cigarettes.

Hirst is interested in the limits of bio-

logical life, and is well-known for his work with animals preserved in formaldehyde. One of his most celebrated pieces is *Away from the Flock* (1994), a lamb preserved in the fluid.

In *Girls, Who Like Boys, Who Like Boys, Who Like Girls, Like Girls, Like Boys* (2006), the paint surface is encrusted with stunning colored butterflies, as well as more disquieting devices such as razors. Here Hirst reminds the

viewer of the transience of life. Despite the butterflies' beautiful veneer, the razors create associations with "vanitas" (Latin for 'vanity') imagery, reminding us of the danger and impermanence of material beauty. The work's title is an adaptation of lyrics from a famous 1995 pop song, "Boys and Girls," by the British band Blur and the colors of the canvas underline Hirst's reference to the complexities of physical attraction.

Comments

I personally like Tracey Emin very much. She created works from her own experiences. She exposes her private pain and shares it with people through artistic forms. The chair, I mean the one in *There's A Lot of Money in Chairs*, is one of my favorite works in *Aftershock*. Emin used techniques like embroidery in the work. She sewed the names of the places she had been to on the chairs. I could feel her sharing her journey and her memories with audience in the work.

— **Pi Li, curator, director of Universal Studios-Beijing**

Croque Mort is the work that I like most. Every time I entered the exhibition hall with audience, I asked what they felt at first. Maybe it was coincidence that for the first ten times, almost all the people said the work made people feel depressed, heavy, bloody and hot. Then, the next ten times, nearly the entire audience told me they felt warm, safe and cozy. It is really strange that people had such a range of reactions to the same work. Perhaps it is the

strength of the work itself. It gives people a large space for understanding and imagination.

— **Chen Xuan, one of the interpreters of "Aftershock" in Guangzhou**

I'd like to mention a video work here called *A Little Death* by Sam Taylor-Wood. It describes the relationship between a peach and a dead rabbit. I know the artist had shot in slow motion for several months and then played it in normal speed. The whole process makes people feel disgusted and astonished. The dead rabbit rotted gradually, and then, more and more maggots covered its body, eating the putrid flesh with lightning speed. The body of the rabbit turns to a skeleton instantly. The most interesting part is that during the rabbit's transformation, a peach is placed beside it and remains complete. Nobody knows what secrets are hidden in the changing world.

— **Yu Feng, art college student**

Aftershock

Where: first floor, Capital Museum, No 16, Fuxingmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: Tue-Sun 9am-5pm, until May 11

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6337 0491, 6337 0492



Gone with the music

By Gan Tian

Lu Siqing, the most famous Chinese violinist, will give a concert combining musical performance with readings from his new book, *Gone with the Music*. The concert, named "Gone with the Music – Du Zou Hui," means both "a solo concert" and "a reading concert" in Chinese.

A violin concert in a theater is risky. "The director has created a very special format. I invited my friend to come to the concert, to read several paragraphs from my books," Lu said, "I just wanted to create an intimate feeling for my audience. The violin is not an unattainable or high-class instrument; it's all around us, part of the culture."

The violinist has plenty of advice for children who are pursuing musical dreams, and their parents. "Music exhorts people to look into every detail of life, to cherish life and to enjoy it. I firmly believe there should be an enjoyable way to let music come into your life," Lu said, "learning how to play violin is a daunting task. You should not rely on your interest. Persistence is also another important factor. I practiced a lot when I was very young."

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Lu's winning the gold medal in the Paganini International Violin Competition. "I am holding this concert especially for my father. He passed away several years ago without seeing what I have achieved in recent years. For another thing, 20 years have gone by [since the Paganini competition]. This may be a retrospective of what I have done," the violinist said to the media.

The famous violinist will play "Liang Zhu (The Butterfly Lovers)," "Song of a Vagrant," "Love's Greeting" and many Chinese and Western pieces in the concert.

Lu is one of the most active Chinese violinists in the world. As the first Asian violinist to win the gold medal at the 1987 Paganini Competition, Lu has held concerts at Avery Fisher Hall, the 92nd Street Y in New York, the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, the Ford Center in Toronto and the Royal Opera House and Wigmore Hall in London. With his passionate devotion to violin, he is known as an outstanding talent in the world.

Where: Beiqing Yingzhibao Theater, 2 Lize Dong Er Lu, Chaoyang (northeast of Wangjing Science and Technology Park)

Time: 7pm, March 29-31

Ticket: 300 yuan; 100 yuan for children

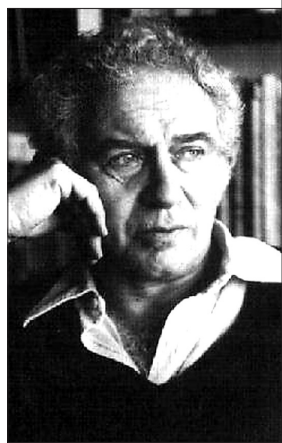
Tel: 6439 8559; 6439 8997

There's A Lot of Money in Chairs

Tracey Emin works in a range of different media, including drawing, film, performance, photography, printmaking, installation and appliqué. She forms part of a generation of artists who wanted to reach their audience directly.

In 1994 she traveled across the USA recording readings from her autobiography, *Exploration of the Soul*. In a work entitled *Monument Valley* (July 1995), the artist reads the book, seated in

her late grandmother's chair, in the eponymous Arizonan desert valley. Emin embroidered the chair with significant personal items and stories. As a journey of self-discovery and analysis, Emin performed a healing ritual by recounting painful personal memories as she traveled across the US. The chair was sewn with the names of the places she visited, and is exhibited under the title *There's A Lot of Money in Chairs*.



The Castle in The Forest

By Norman Mailer
477pp, Random House,
205 yuan (Amazon audio-
book download)

By Ari Savitzky

Most works of historical fiction attempt to validate some larger truth by making up the details – think the ethnic slugfest

Gangs of New York, or the colonial tribulations of John Demos' masterful *The Unredeemed Captive*. Of course, when you're dealing with a historical figure who needs no introduction and your name is Norman Mailer, your project may employ a slightly more unorthodox methodology.

So it is with *The Castle in the Forest*, in which Mailer does for Adolf

Hitler what he previously did for Jesus Christ, Marilyn Monroe and Picasso: construct a fictional biography that fits more with contemporary views and questions surrounding the subject than with their actual lives.

Where Hitler is concerned, it's certainly a worthwhile project; the questions of how such an evil person grew up from an innocent babe is one that challenges even the hardest philosopher of morality. With Mailer at the helm, we have a supernatural narrator-cum-explanation: Dieter, an anxious minor devil charged by Satan with young Adi's development into a personification of evil itself.

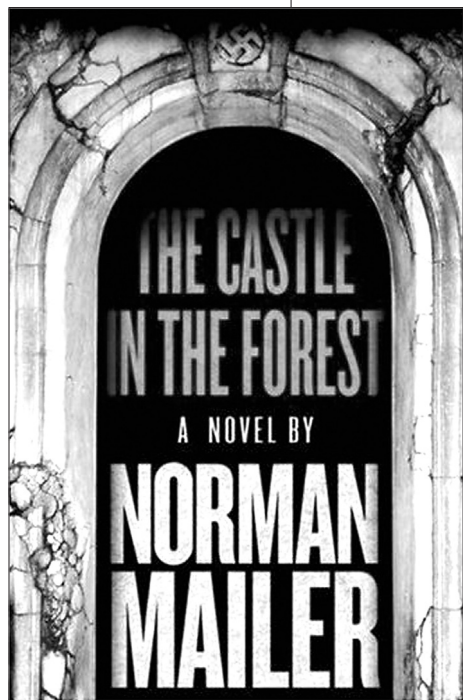
It is, to be sure, a long book, and one which can easily chew up and spit out a reader who isn't ready to suspend disbelief and criticism at the long asides from Dieter, who confusingly transcends time and space, but offers many interesting remarks about Hitler's family, about Germany and the human ego.

Readers not ready to commit to the long slog of understanding the supernatural stratagem which birthed young Adi will nonetheless appreciate Mailer's portrayal of Alois, Hitler's father, an incestuous, abu-

sive womanizer and mid-level customs officer. The book spans Alois' life, ending in the first decade of the twentieth century. There is no Kapp Putsch or *Mein Kampf* here, only Adi's sub-par school performance, scatological boyhood interests, weird, rural Austrian home life and incestuous conception, with the devil attending an act of casual sex between Alois and the woman who was both his daughter and niece.

While historians have deemed those highlights plausible, *The Castle in the Forest*, researched and detailed though it may be, is a novel, and ultimately a confusing one at that. Perhaps two shorter works, one which let the devil Dieter dig further into questions of the human psyche and another which barred him and his ilk from the narrative, focusing instead on the human element of Hitler's life, might have allowed both goals to be met more clearly, and more force applied to each project.

Of course, the nature of *The Castle in the Forest* is the combination of the two, of the real and the unreal, so as to answer the vexing question of Hitler's origin. It is a long read to take on for baffling stab at truth.



Deep thoughts from daily drama

Wang teaches Chinese home-style cooking

By Annie Wei

Wang Xiaoxing's popular food blogs spawned the two current chart-topping cookbooks. The Beijing Book Building, and websites dangdang.com and joyo.com all rank the books in their Top-10 sellers. The language is clear and simple Chinese that reads easily, and the pictures provide a great visual guide for preparing Chinese home-style cooking.

Jiehun Yi Nian Jian (One year of marriage)

More than 80 home-style recipes; published by China CITIC Press; 26 yuan.

Wang's perception of marriage is the dominant theme across the 80 articles selected from her blog. In describing each dish's preparation, Wang rolls out her smart thoughts, like, "The bathroom tells the quality of life – how to make a meat biscuit," or, "There's nothing to complain about in marriage – fried tomato and tofu."

It's more interesting to read her blog for her stories than to read the book. She updates it every day with a new idea. Every update is saturated with her sincere attitude. All her recipes are based on her everyday cooking for her husband.

Wang says, before marriage,

she was like most girls in town – living a life of partying, going out and dressing up. After settling down, she moved into another period of her life and has become satisfied with the more mundane aspects of family life. She puts a lot of thought into every meal she creates.

Daily life is routine: work, sleep and three meals. From Wang shines an inspiring attitude towards the ordinary – her desire to live ordinary life with the passion to make every day count.



Tan Qing Shuo Cai (Cooking, chatting about relationships)

More than 70 recipes for simple Chinese dishes; published by China Youth Publishing House in 2006; 29 yuan.

Although Wang is only an amateur cook, the smart writing style of this veteran journalist has attracted a huge following. All her recipes begin with a story describing relationships – the main reason for her blog's popularity.

The book is split up into four parts. In her first section "About Women," she lays out some sweeping opinions, like, "Single women need to show off their superiority – Cold dish snow peas." She says the dish "needs a delicate preparation to make it presentable, like how a single woman needs to pamper herself." The second



section is "About Men," followed by "About Love" and "About Family." All the articles follow the same style.

When Wang talks about how to cook *jielan*, a leafy Chinese veggie, with mustard and ice cubes, she tells the story of a man leaving a woman and how the woman tries to bring him trouble doing crazy and hilarious things. "Don't believe a woman's hysterical tears. She's probably already made up her mind. It's just like how the *jielan* is hidden under the ice cubs and the strong smell of mustard," she writes.

Her views are based on real-life observations, and have hit home with many readers. Many bloggers have tried to emulate her style, but none have matched it.

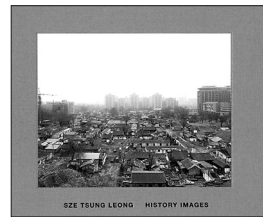
Timezone 8 Recommendations

Robert Bernell's picks

By He Jianwei

Owner of Timezone 8 Robert Bernell recommends three books for *Beijing Today's* readers. All three share a common theme, photo-essays by foreigners. "The three books offer a glimpse of China through foreigners' eyes," Bernell said.

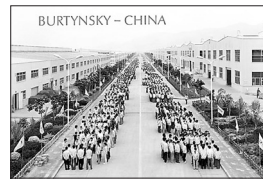
Sze Tsung Leong: History Images



136 pp with 75 color plates; 34.2 x 27.9cm; 750 yuan, with member price of 712.5 yuan

Bernell said, "Sze Tsung Leong is a Chinese man born in Mexico City in 1970 who currently lives and works in New York. He reveals the contradictions created by an uncertain and fluctuating environment. The book shows the contrast between the new and old in China: the new is built and the old is toppled down."

Edward Burtynsky: China



147pp; 37.1 x 29.5cm; 650 yuan, with member price of 617.5 yuan

Bernell said, "Burtynsky, raised in Ontario, infiltrated the vast coal fields gathered for the furnaces of Baosteel, China's largest steel producer. In our minds, industry is dirty, but in Burtynsky's eyes, industry has some beautiful colors, designs and shapes. The black of coal is beautiful, and a difficult color for a photographer."

China [sur]real: A Photo Essay by Mark Henley



135pp; 31 x 24cm; 320 yuan, with member price of 304 yuan

Bernell said, "Using humor to engage readers, this illustrated book examines the issues confronting contemporary China, including migration, social inequality, the rise of the individual, consumerism and changes in sexual identity. It's the most fun of the three I've recommended. On the cover, a bride and bridegroom rush to their wedding in a building that's still under construction. The whole country is being rapidly assembled."

Too much of a good thing

Five jianbing in three hours

By Ari Savitzky

If you've ever walked the streets of Beijing for more than five minutes, you've seen them: steaming eggy masses in plastic bags, served up from streetcarts or corner stores, and carried away by hungry pedestrians of every age, size and nationality.

The *jianbing* is something of a contradiction, especially for foreigners; with a taste somewhere between an exotic delicacy and an egg McMuffin heavy on the *lajiao*, it's both an unforgettable dining experience, and not really a dining experience at all. It's Beijing street food, pure and simple and delectable.



2pm: kicking off the taste test at the Tiankelong Chaoshi. While a little pricey, the Tiankelong offers options, and sanitation.

A *jianbing* starts its life as a crepe frying on a large circular grill. Next come eggs, cracked and spread on the surface; the pancake is flipped, hot and sweet sauces added, cilantro and onion sprinkled, and a crispy piece of fried dough is placed in the center. The crepe is then folded onto the fried dough, and served hot.

Legend has it that the *jianbing* is originally from Tianjin, and there are variants from Shandong among other regions. Beijing's are unique; apparently, Tianjin's *jianbing guozi* use *youtiao*, a tube shaped, sweet and flaky fried dough, while Beijing's use square and crunchy *youbing*.

To eat a jianbing

I get into a cab around Wudaokou eating a *jianbing*. The incredulous driver asks, "Do you like that?" The truth is that foreigners and native Beijingers both love *jianbing*, as breakfast on the go or a late night snack. *Jianbing*

sellers confirmed that non-Chinese eat plenty of them, but even the cart nestled in the heart of Sanlitun bar street sells 85 percent of its fare to Chinese people, according to the proprietor.

The trick for *jianbing* connoisseurs is to find a place that makes them your way, which involves a

little searching and a little finagling. Sometimes, you'll luck upon a cart or stand with extra flair, like the pro inside 798 Art district right of Jiuxianqiaolu Lu who liberally applies black sesame to his tasty creations.

Other times, you have to take matters into your own hands.

Wang Xiaoxiao, a graduate student at Beijing University, says the secret to eating a *jianbing* is to ask for more.

"You could ask for all kinds of sausage, or more than one egg," Wang said, "Many people prefer more spicy *jianbing*, and we'll ask for it extra spicy. We call it 'luxu-

rious *jianbing*."

As with any folk custom, legends have emerged around *jianbing*. *Beijing Today* has heard rumors of a 4 yuan *jianbing* somewhere in Haidian that is both unspeakably delicious and the size of a human head – the Moby Dick of *jianbing*.

The taste test

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, *Beijing Today* set out from Chaoyang through Dongcheng to Haidian, researchers with a couple hours and a delicious and dangerously large sample size. The key factors in our 5-star scale: sauce flavor, *youbing* crispiness, batter quality, how done the egg is and the freshness of the veggies. The results:



2pm at Tiankelong Chaoshi

2pm: Tiankelong Chaoshi

Where: Tuanjiehu, Baijiazhuang Dong Li

Open: Early till 9pm

Cost: 2.5 yuan

Big supermarkets will usually have *jianbing* in the bakery section. With economies of scale

working in their favor, they can offer more ingredients, like *jiucaihua* and *jiang doufu* sauces to go along with the *lajiao* and *tianmianjiang*, and black sesame seeds. The Tiankelong also offers black rice batter (*zimimian*) in addition to the regular *doumian* batter, though the latter is tastier. It's a pro job, with extremely fresh cilantro thanks to the avail-

ability of refrigeration.

Unfortunately, a dry, lackluster *youbing* brought this offering down significantly, and the *lajiao* just wasn't that hot. The 2.5 yuan price tag is a little unreasonable; on the other hand, it's not much more expensive than the street, and is definitely the most sanitary way to get your *jianbing* fix.

2.5/5 stars

2:30pm: Nurenjie

Where: Xingba Jiubajie

Open: For breakfast in the morning into the evening

Cost: 2 yuan

This is the consummate street *jianbing*, made with the most basic ingredients and a personal touch. The cart's owner applied oil to

the pan by hand while telling me that, contrary to popular wisdom, *jianbing* are not from Tianjin, but rather from Henan. Despite the place's rumpled appearance, this cart's fare is well known.

The *tianmianjiang* was perfect – a little meaty, a little smoky – and worked perfectly with the high quality onions, whose flavor prac-

tically popped out of the concoction. Most crucially, the *youbing*, was perfect: crisp, light, oily and soaked in *tianmianjiang*. The egg was evenly spread, and cooked to fluffiness, without a single soggy patch. This was a masterfully constructed "sweet" *jianbing*. Props to the street!

4/5 stars



2:30pm at Nurenjie for a classic street jianbing

3:15pm: Dongzhimen Ditezhan

Where: Right next to the exit of the line 2 to line 13 detour

Open: 7am-10pm

Cost: 2 yuan

This *jianbing* was comparable to Nurenjie Super bar street's, but soggier; the crucial *youbing* factor strikes again. The small convenience stand in between the blue and orange subway lines is always crowded. The result is that the *jianbing* was made quick, and the egg was a bit undercooked – a big no-no. That's the problem with a crowded street stand – a great *jianbing* takes time and attention to reach its maximum potential.

3/5 stars



3:15pm at Dongzhimen



4:30pm at Boshi Chaoshi

4:30pm: Boshi Chaoshi

Where: Beijing University Campus, near the East gate

Open: 10am-midnight

Cost: 2 yuan

This tiny market next to the

Beijing University post office wins the full-throated approval of campus denizens, who queue up from breakfast into the night for some brain food. It was a *jianbing* unlike any other: the batter looked thicker than usual, and sizzled more like an American pancake than a crepe. All the sauces – including *jiang doufu* – were excellent.

Perhaps what made this a cut above was the *lajiao*, which was by far the spiciest of the day. Overall, this *jianbing* was light, spicy, with a suitable amount of crunch and a very special flavor.

4.5/5 stars



4pm at Wudaokou's Pingjia Shangdian

4pm: Pingjia Shangdian

Where: Wudaokou, Chengfu Lu, next to KFC

Open: 24 hours

Cost: 2 yuan

This is a busy stand that came highly recommended by *jianbing*-loving students who frequent the line 13 subway. It's part of a little 24-hour convenience store. On the downside, the egg was a little runny here. But, they also offered *jiang doufu* to go with the standard two sauces, and something extra: *xiancai*, or pickled radish, which worked nicely against the sweet sauces and gave this *jianbing* some bite, as well as points for originality.

3.5/5 stars

Photos by Tian Yufeng

With the busier locations selling over 200 per day, and supermarkets and carts serving them up across town, there are doubtless thousands of *jianbing* consumed in Beijing each day. They aren't haute cuisine, they're street food and so perhaps it's no surprise that it's the small streetside operations that make them best. The street carts, usually a glass box housing a grill and

gas tank attached to a three-wheeled bicycle, are ubiquitous, though found suspect by more than a few locals and foreigners. Some, operated by elderly or migrant workers, make *jianbing* with such mastery that it lifts the spirit.

Lynn Feng, born in Beijing, raised in Kansas, graduated from Yale and currently studying at Beijing Univer-

sity, says *jianbing* are clearly her favorite food. "They are the greatest thing that ever happened to Beijing street food," Feng said, "There have been days when I'm feeling a little down, struggling just a tad, but then through the sea of pollution and traffic I spy the familiar sight of the circular grill, and somehow everything is OK, and Beijing is beautiful once again."



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Don't bother to help others, they never care.

Two months ago, I noticed my QQ icon dancing away after the loud signal of an incoming message. I clicked the portrait and an image of a big, cute, crying bunny popped up. Next came a dancing bunny, and then a third bunny who was working out. I saved them all.

Since January, the mystery bunny has become a hot topic in Internet forums. Questions like, "What's the name of the bunny?" and "Who designed it?" have been asked enough to make moderators cry. A few weeks and several-hundred reposts later, the answer has emerged.

The white fuzz-ball, Tuzki, designed by a woman named "Wang Momo," has prompted dozens of Internet fan videos of bunny-lovers imitating his goofy actions.

Wang Momo is the pen name of Tuzki's creator. "Mo," in Chinese, is used to represent the Year of the Rabbit.

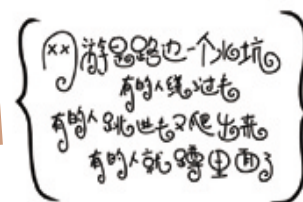
"My classmates nicknamed me 'Rabbit' when I was a kid, because they thought I was similar to one," she says, "I like it. When I want to update my blog diary, I use the rabbit picture that most represents my mood."

Previously, she called her character "Tuski." The "s"s changed to "z"s after reading "Spell My

By He Jianwei

After stumbling on "Tuzki," the latest lagomorph launched on the internet, I realized the white and fluffy bunny trend will never end.

Mashimaro and Bunny Suicides are past smash examples of trendy bunnies, but newcomer Tuzki has been spreading like wildfire among Chinese netizens this year thanks to Tencent QQ and MSN Messenger clients.



Some people never bother to climb out when they fall into life's pits.

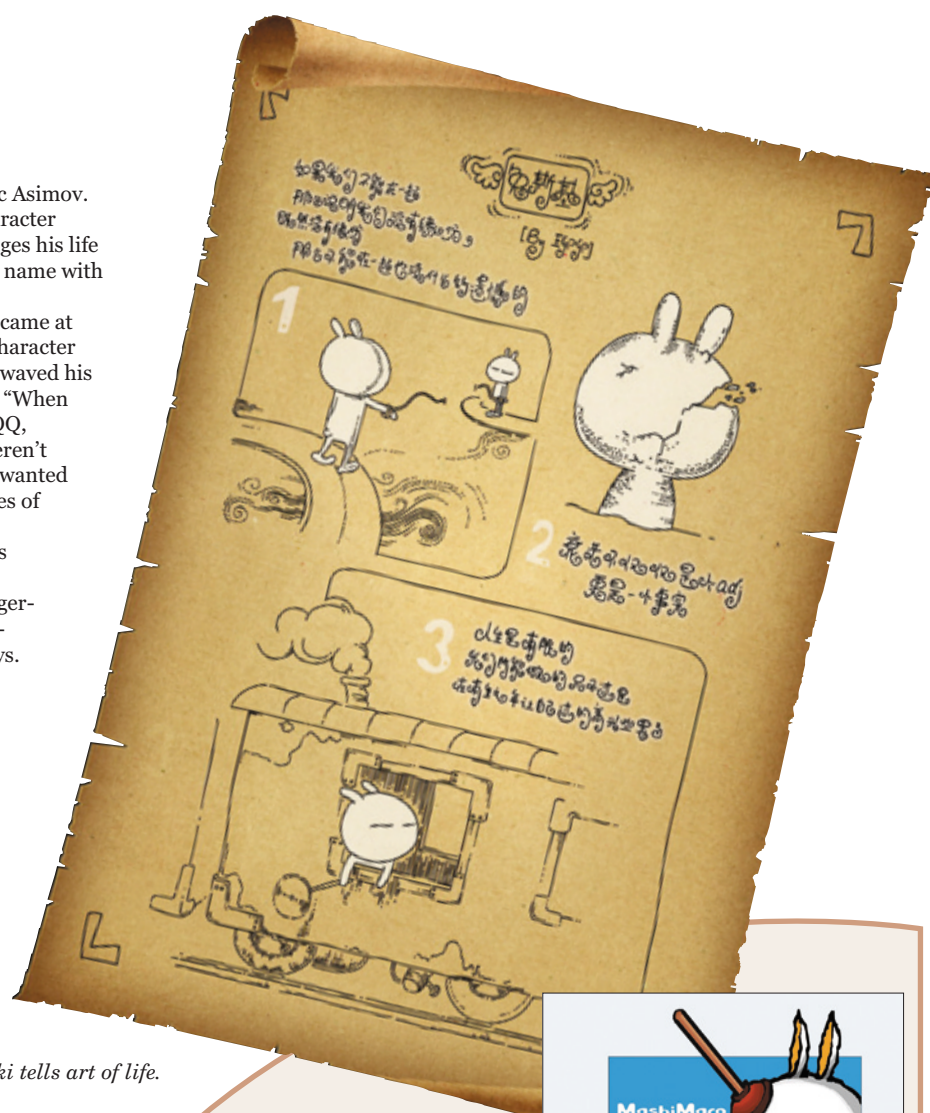


Name With An S" by Isaac Asimov. In the story, the main character named "Zebatinsky" changes his life by replacing the "z" in his name with an "s," she says.

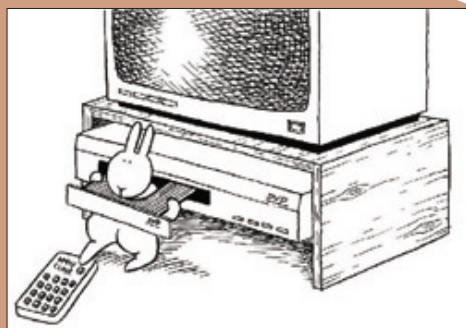
Her first Tuzki design came at the end of January. The character was very simple, and just waved his arms and shook his head. "When chatting with friends on QQ, the default images just weren't enough to express what I wanted to, so I made more pictures of Tuzki," she says.

Most of Tuzki's actions are based on her real-life daily experiences. "I exaggerate them based on expressions in daily life," she says.

Besides her QQ and MSN Tuzki pictures, she's also drawn Tuzki on notebooks, posters and postcards. She plans to add videos of Tuzki to the lineup.



Tuzki tells art of life.



Bunny Suicides

The Bunny Suicides series is drawn from Andy Riley's two cult-hit books, *The Book of Bunny Suicides* and *The Return of the Bunny Suicides*.

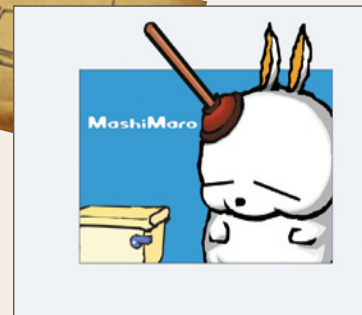
These bunnies are sick of living. Each cartoon features one or more of the white rabbits finding creative ways to escape the pain of living with a variety of creative items: revolving doors, toasters, cricket balls, boomerangs, hand-grenades, cigarettes and the sun focused through a magnifying glass all play into their chemically imbalanced quest to meet the reaper.

The cartoons are drawn so that the bunny's exact plan for self-termination is not exactly clear, leaving the readers to piece together how the bunnies plan to take the big leap.

Mashimaro

Mashimaro is Korea's most popular cartoon character, created in June 2000 by Kim Jae In and Jang Mi Yeong. The main character in Mashimaro Forest, he's a trickster rabbit. The name is derived from how "marshmallow" sounds when said with a Japanese accent, because his body is shaped like a big marshmallow. The name is also often written as Mashi Maro.

While not strictly a TV character, the lumpy bunny's cuteness has captured the hearts of millions. He originated from a series of Internet flash animations. Today, he's more often seen on merchandise similar to Sanrio's Hello Kitty. Mashimaro merchandise is found on the Internet and in Korean communities world-over.



Despite his dumb appearance, he's actually a mean-spirited practical joker. The original Mashimaro cartoons are full of toilet humor, like farting, stealing food and shitting, and some of his dirty antics have spread to his merchandise. He's often portrayed with a toilet plunger stuck to his head.

A stark contrast to the saccharinely sweet Hello Kitty, Mashimaro is extremely aggressive, enjoys late-night snacking and swanky jazz, acts like a thug and is by no means above beating the hell out of someone to get his way.

By Gan Tian

Everyone collects something. My brother collects stamps. My roommate has over a hundred cups. I know a real witch who loves collecting handsome boys' hearts. As a more normal guy, I tend to prefer collecting CDs. This week, we'll look at some stylish ways to store your CD collection.

Storing with style

A place for your CDs



World map (small) CD bag

Wow, this dated map makes me feel like I'm Christopher Columbus! I can be the second, or third – or was it fourth now? – person to discover America! The blue tint adds a certain air of "discovery" and "quest" to the otherwise drab bundle. If you plan on taking your CDs on an adventure, this may be the pack to have.

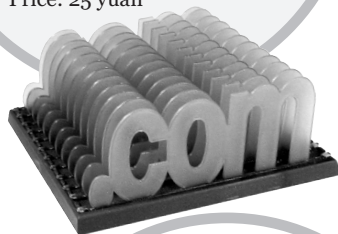
Available: Carrefour, Zhong-guancun Plaza, Haidian
Price: 15 yuan



.com CD rack

The ".com" shape will make you look like a modern man at the cutting edge of IT! Or just a geek. There are 12 plastic slots to stick your CDs. But really, who uses these to store CDs? Everything is available for free on Baidu MP3 anyway. I guess there are still a few people stuck in the digital stone age.

Available: taobao.com
Price: 25 yuan



W-shape CD rack

This one looks like two "w"s stuck together. Use it upside down to be really creative and make an "m" CD rack – of course that one holds a few less discs. The wooden finish gives it a very "classic" look suitable for any modern decor apartment.

Available: Ikea, No 59, Futong Dong Dajie, northwest corner of Siyuanqiao, Chaoyang
Price: about 300 yuan



Kungfu boy CD rack

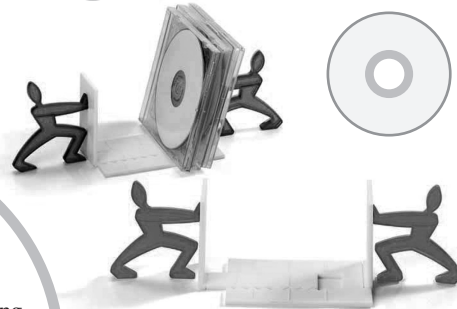
Look! The famous Chinese Kung Fu boy is practicing his invincible *Wuyingjiao* – Shadowless Kick! See, his *qi* moves but nothing else does. Be careful, he may hurt you. At least you can trust this pugilist to keep your CDs safe from gangs of evil roommates.

Available: 11133.net/product_2.html
Price: 20 yuan, 15 yuan member price

Working together CD rack

This isn't product placement, I swear! This website just has the best collection of CD holders in Beijing. These two guys mash your discs together to prevent them from falling. There's nothing like teamwork to protect your precious discs.

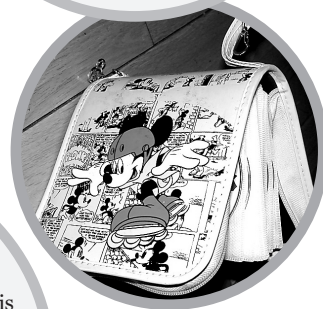
Available: 11133.net/product_2.html
Price: 17 yuan, 12 yuan member price



Hey Mickey CD bag

"Hey Mickey, you've been around all night and that's a little long ... But can't you say goodnight, so you can take me home, Mickey!" were the words in the similarly named pop hit *Micky* by "Kitty." Stuff this one full of your retro classics.

Available: Watsons
Price: 10 yuan



World map (large) CD bag

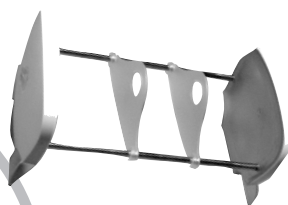
How amazing. I found the same CD case at another shop. Are they twins? Maybe they were separated at birth. Boo hoo, it's the kind of sad story you'd find on a bootleg Korean movie. That's it! The sea map makes this perfect for storing pirates – not that you'd have any of those. The map's elder brother is bigger, stronger and can hold even more CDs.

Available: 300-400 meters south of Jishuitan subway station's south exit, Xicheng
Price: 35 yuan

Green monster CD rack

I have no idea what this thing is supposed to be; therefore, I dub this the "green monster" CD rack. No, it has nothing to do with jealousy, and given how ugly it is, no one could possibly be jealous of it. Look at it this way, if someone breaks in and steals all your CDs, at least you're guaranteed to still have the rack!

Available: No 24, Xisi Bei Dajie, Xicheng
Price: 20 yuan



Fat man CD rack

The fat man is on his way out to battle Kung Fu boy. However, his Kung Fu is weak. He can only carry one CD at a time – but his special attack makes up for it! He can show off the lyrics book and the CD together.

Available: 11133.net/product_2.html
Price: 30 yuan, 20 yuan member price



Ikea CD shelf

One, two, three, four, five ... look at my amazing skills! I'm counting its slots with my toes. Twelve! There's twelve spots to stick your discs. I used my toes to count how many shelves it has. Twelve. That's a lot of space to store your collection, and the wooden surface gives it a nice look to blend in with your other furniture.

Available: Ikea, No 59, Futong Dong Dajie, northwest corner of Siyuanqiao, Chaoyang
Price: 500-700 yuan



Ear massage

A natural remedy

By Huang Daohen

The ear, an oft-neglected body part, has a special place in the human system. When you discover how effective ear massage is and how effective it is for the body, you may be stunned: for many of life's discomforts, ear massage provides a simple, non-invasive answer.

Mechanism

Within the ear's system is a collection of links that offer direct routes to the central and peripheral nervous systems, Yin Lin, a surgeon from Beijing Biotinge Medical Spa, says. The auricle of the ear can be viewed as a microsystem of pressure points connected to the entire body. For example, if your shoulder aches, you can feel relief if the "shoulder area" of the ear is pressed, similar to the microsystems thought to be on the feet, face, legs and back.

Clinically, doctors are interested in the access to body systems offered by pressure points in the ear, Lin, says. Stimulating the ear's pressure points is referred to as auriculotherapy. It was discovered by the French in 1950, and then picked up and studied by Chinese doctors.

While auriculotherapy can be used to address a countless array of health issues, treatments targeting pain relief and addiction have demonstrated some of the most dramatic responses.

Pain relief

Studies conducted by Michael Smith, a physician who

practices Oriental Medicine in New York City, suggest that applying pressure to specific ear locations can relieve body pain. Ear stimulation triggers the release of the body's natural painkillers – endorphins – chemicals produced in the brain that reduce pain and lift the mood, Smith says.

By rubbing the ear, doctors can access nearly every part of the body's anatomy. Ear massage also aids in adjusting hormone and neurotransmitter levels in the body and brain. For many diseases with no known treatment, the ear's pressure points may offer a way to effectively reduce symptoms and increase the quality of life.

Addiction

Ear stimulation is utilized world-over to help reduce drug dependence and assist in detoxification of addicts. A new attempt by St John's Mercy Medical Center in Washington is using ear stimulation as a fast, safe and painless way to quit smoking.

The area of the ear accessed in addiction treatment is the concha, Lin says. The two hollow areas of the outer ear correspond to the autonomic nervous system via the vagus nerve, and stimulating these areas can enhance relaxation and help to maintain balance.

Useful resources

Learning more about anatomy and the map of the ear can help add a new level of healing to basic ear massage.

1. *Auriculotherapy Manual*, 1998, Terry Oleson, PhD, Health Care Alternatives

2. auriculotherapy.com

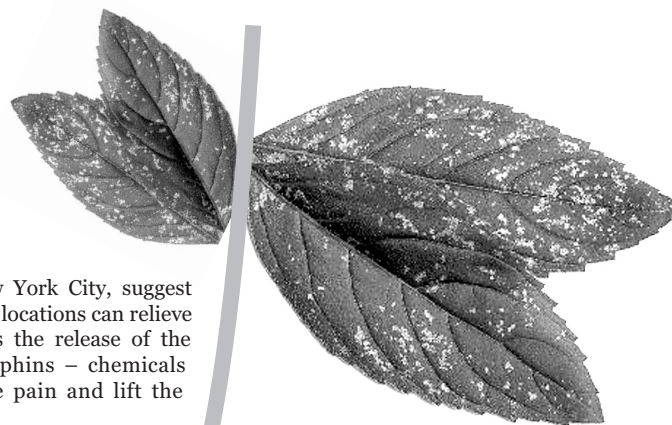
Dr Terry Oleson provides answers to plenty of FAQs readers may have.

3. emedicine.com

An online collection of free massage information.



CFP Photos



A glass a day to keep the aspirin away

Simple and inexpensive home remedies are grabbing more attention thanks to their DIY novelty, lack of serious side effects and sometimes utter absurdity. *Beijing Today* presents some weird remedies submitted by numerous netizens to show how home remedies work, and how people use crazy cures to stay fit and healthy.

Gatorade for headache

Drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately, and without the unpleasant side effects caused by pain relievers like aspirin and ibuprofen. If you can't track down any of Florida's favorite energy drink, substitute a can of Pocari Sweat available from most Beijing convenience stores.

Another remedy is to apply pressure to the point where the bones of your thumb and index fingers connect. Press as hard as you can for as long as you can, and eventually, the headache should fade. This technique works for most people, and is handy for camping trips where common pain relievers may be unavailable.

Egg whites for burns

You may have heard how toothpaste can make a great salve for burns. Well, egg whites are another miracle cure, even for more severe burns. They are also the best method to lower a high temperature in minutes.

Soak or coat the affected area with an egg white to provide burn relief. Keep more egg whites handy, because as soon as the white dries up, the pain will return. Reapply as necessary.

Using egg whites not only alleviates pain, but actually helps the skin heal and can prevent a burn from leaving a scar.

Peppermint for stuffy sinuses

Before heading to the drugstore to buy a high-priced inhaler full of mysterious ingredients, try crunching on a couple strong peppermints. They will often help open up clogged sinuses.

Boiled lemon juice for sore throat

For a sore throat, try drinking a cup of boiled lemon juice. The sore throat will usually fade after the next day.

You can also try to mix a fourth cup of white vinegar with a fourth cup of honey and swallow one tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar will kill off the bacteria and the honey will make the vinegar a bit easier to swallow. You can also use lemon juice. It's a traditional European remedy.

Vinegar to lighten bruises

Soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to a bruise for one hour. It helps to lighten the bruise and speeds up healing.

Honey for skin blemishes

Cover a blemish with a dab of honey and place a bandage over it. The honey will kill the bacteria, keep the skin sterile and reduce the healing time. It works overnight.

Garlic balm for broken blisters

To disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of garlic oil. Do not try to use a liquid bandage – it will bring tears to even a grown adult. Try not to drain a blister, but if you must, drain it from the bottom and do not remove the overlying skin.

Oats for arthritis

Oatmeal isn't just for breakfast anymore! Mix two cups of oats with a cup of water in a bowl and microwave for a minute. Cool slightly and apply the mixture to your hands to get fast relief from arthritis pains.

(By Huang Daohen)



Whirl away from the sandstorms

Beach holiday in Sanya

The sky is ugly. The sandstorms are on their way. No matter how you slice it, Beijing's pre-spring season leaves much to be desired. For a beach holiday, Sanya is the best choice to fill that

craving for warmer surroundings. Located on the southern edge of Hainan Island, the city has four main parts: Yalong Bay, Dadonghai Beach, Downtown Sanya and Sanya Bay. However, prepping for

a holiday there requires more than just picking which hotel to stay in.

Sanya's beaches are divided up by activities. Besides the basic sea, sun and sandy beach, the city also offers golf, scuba diving,

hot springs, a hike in the rain forest, sailing and fishing, rafting, spa treatments, shopping, night life and great venues for sampling the local seafood.

Beijing Today covers five of

the best hotels for these activities. The list includes one of the most luxurious five-star hotels, two cozy three-stars and a couple of no-star hostels for the younger travel crowd.

Luxury



Hilton Sanya Resort and Spa

Range: Five-star

This hotel, positioned on Yalong Bay, Hainan's southernmost tip, overlooks a 750 meter stretch of powdery white sand. Its six restaurants and bars, all based on traditional Chinese elements, offer indoor dining in air-conditioned comfort and al fresco dining in the island's balmy breeze.

Big Kitchen All-Day Dining is an all-day dining restaurant with a trendy open-kitchen setting as its main draw. Diners will find all kinds of world cuisines served here. After the Hilton Resort Breakfast, the restaurant turns into an open lunchtime kitchen serving noodles and pastas, sandwich boards, baked goods and sushi, sashimi and salads – even barbecues, grills and stews. A whole new atmosphere wafts in at dusk for a fancy dinner tour of the world – Chinese, Japanese, Southeast Asian, Sri Lankan, Indian, Australian, Pacific Island, Middle Eastern, Continental European and American are mixed up for creative dishes.

Add: Yalong Bay National Resort District, Sanya

Get there: 40km from Phoenix Airport in Sanya and 230km from the Meilan Airport in Haikou, 25km to the railway station, and 20km from Sanya's downtown.

Tel: +86-898-8858 8888

Romance

Sanya Romantic Seaview Hotel

Range: Three-star

This resort is, without a doubt, the top pick for young lovers and newlyweds. Situated on the picturesque beach Dadonghai, the Sanya Romantic Seaview Hotel is embraced by natural mountains and sprinkled with a pleasant mix of greenery that lends a glow to local flora. The bright, south-China sunshine makes every rare tropical bud even more gorgeous.

The hotel offers an assortment of guest rooms for you to customize your visit: warm, romantic standard garden rooms, standard sea-view rooms, luxury suites and more. Every room is comfortable and has a gracious style and clear color.

Add: Dadonghai Travel District, Sanya 572000

Get there: The picturesque beach Dadonghai, a 20-minute drive from the airport and 10-minute from the downtown.

Tel: +86-898-8821 6888



Business



Sanya Shengyi Seaview Hotel

The Sanya Shengyi Seaview Hotel is the perfect place to impress clients and partners before signing the next big contract. With its close location to the airport, the hotel is an ideal business trip destination, which offers accommodations, business service, food and drink and entertainment.

The hotel is equipped with a gracefully furnished sea view lobby bar. There are deluxe conference halls and huge auditoriums, all fully equipped for your presentations, as well as large parking lots, souvenir shops and a business center. After the meetings and negotiations are out of the way, leave your clients a lasting impression by inviting them out to enjoy the fantastic natural scenery.

Range: Three-star

Add: Binhai Road, Sanya 572000

Get there: About 15-minutes from the Sanya Phoenix International Airport.

Tel: +86-898-8889 8333

Homesick

Sanya Eagle Backpackers Hostel

Range: No-star youth hostel

The hostel's founder is Jane. Her friends call her Coconut Jane, because she is always sweet and kind. As a certified tour guide, she runs the place and maintains a thoroughly good vibe, as well as clean and comfortable rooms. The triple can also be a dorm, so single travelers can still get a bed for a very cheap price.

Jane offers all sorts of tours from sightseeing trips she leads herself, to diving. She will organize any budget tour that interests you in Sanya to the best of her ability. The hostel opened fairly recently.

All the hostel employees speak fluent English. They are friendly and will help you with English translations and guidance. They try their best to make the hostel a cozy corner for backpackers. It's not a big hostel, and is very laid back.

Add: No 1206B Haitianhuiyuan Building, Yuya Road, Dadonghai, Sanya

Get there: If you take the bus, you will find a stop in front of the Sanya Bus Station. Do not cross the road. Hop on the No 202 bus and get off at the 9th stop to enter the Kaiyue Sea View Hotel. The hostel is on the twelfth floor.

Tel: +86-898-8821 1805



Cozy Cost-Saving



Sanya Blue Sky International Youth Hostel

Range: No-star youth hostel

Alternatively, take the No 202 bus from Sanya center or the bus station and get off at the Summer Mall stop. Head back 40m to Haiyun Road and turn left, then follow the road another 60m.

The hostel also offers a taxi pick-up service at Sanya Phoenix Airport. The cost is 50 yuan per taxi. Call in advance or email to make the arrangement – especially if you will arrive after 6pm.

"When we stayed here, several other guests who had been traveling independently through China rated the Blue Sky as the best hostel in the country. In a place as big as China, that is a big call. But it's hard to disagree.

The owner of the hostel sets the tone with regular events, including a great value weekly DIY seafood barbecue, and make-your-own dumplings sessions ...

The hostel organizes beautiful tours in or around Sanya – all friendly and cheap. You can relax at an extremely cheap body or foot massage, for only 15 yuan per hour. If you want to learn more about the local minorities, a Li and Miao minority village package should satisfy your curiosity. If you are a restless traveler and would like to exercise, you can go scuba diving and snorkeling, climb Nanshan and Tianyahaijiao, tour the nearby Monkey Island or hike in the rain forest. No matter what you do during the daytime, head to Nan Tian Hot Spring at nightfall to relax your bones and muscles after a day of activity."

Add: 20 Haiyun Road, Dadonghai District, Sanya

Get there: A taxi from the bus station to the hostel sets you back 10 yuan for 3km. The 25km from the Sanya Phoenix Airport to the hostel costs 50 yuan. Call the hostel if the driver can't find it.

Tel: +86-898-8818 2320

Email:

sy-youthhostel@163.com

(By Chu Meng)

(Contributors to the stories and photos are welcome to contact the editorial office for payment.)



A unique bed in the Hilton Sanya Resort and Spa

What dreams may come in the lost world

Step into to the lost world and find out what dreams may come on top of the world's highest waterfalls in Venezuela's shining crown of the Canaima National Park.

In *What Dreams May Come*, Robin Williams leapt from the top of a waterfall to fly away to heaven, but you don't have to wait till you check out to see the beautiful waterfalls from the movie in person.

The movie wizards in Hollywood waved their magic wands to insert Venezuela's Angel Falls into the movie. Normally tucked away in the mountains of Canaima National Park, the real falls are every bit as dreamy as the ones in the movie.

The Angel Falls

Angel Falls, possibly the tallest falls in the world, is in the Guayana highlands, one of Venezuela's five major regions. The milky-white falls are shrouded in a thin coat of mist that sparkles in the sunshine. If the time is right, the falls can even cast a rainbow.

The falls plunge from the edge of what locals call a *tepuy*, or mountain in the indigenous Pemon tongue, and descend 979 meters to the river below, where they churn and roar through the forested valley. Gazing at the falls from a lookout point, you can see millions of dancing droplets raining down before crashing into the misty-spray below. The falls feed the Churun River to the north.

It would be more romantic to claim the falls were named after a local saint or hero, but actually, they were named after Jimmy Angel, an adventurous bush pilot from Missouri, US. Angel first glimpsed the falls in 1933 with James McCracken on their search for a legendary river of gold. He returned in 1937 with several companions, including his wife, in their Flamingo monoplane, which landed on the marshy grounds atop Auyan Tepuy.

Angel and his companions descended from the mountain and made their way back to civilization 11 days later, but the plane stayed for the next 33 years before being

lifted out by a helicopter. A replica of his plane is now set atop the tepuy — a shard of legend glimmering in the modern world.

If you feel the impulse to follow in Angel's footsteps, the thick rain forest will pose an incredible risk. You can still enjoy a pleasant trip along the large dugout on the Carrao River and head upstream, against the current, during Argentina's rainy season from June to November. An upstream trip will offer great scenes of the dense forestry that carpets the riverside.

For something different, try an excursion into the indigenous villages and see what the life of fishing and hunting is all about. During the dry season, you can only see the falls from airplane.

Restrain that impulse to jump no matter how alluring the falls are. When Hollywood was here, the jumper was Jake Lombard, a veteran stunt man, not Williams, and he had a parachute.

National park

The falls are no doubt the crown jewel of Bolivar State's national park, close to the country's border with Brazil and Guyana. But as one of the world's largest national parks, it has much more to offer.

All three million hectares of the park are a majestic blending of magic and reality full of impressive plateaus, countless rivers, lagoons and waterfalls, and a lush blend of forests and savannas like a green carpet. The park is a natural mosaic and demands at least one visit in a lifetime, though UNESCO didn't grant it World Heritage Status until 1994.

The park also has an amazing collection of flora, and animals like jaguars, ocelots, sloth, capybaras, crocodiles and parrots, which have made its dense forests their sanctuary for millennia.

(By Jiang Xubo)



The Garden of Sculptures

Photo by Francisco Villegas

Getting to Canaima

There are direct flights to Canaima from Caracas, Venezuela's capital, provided by Avior (avior.com.ve).

The village of Canaima, the gateway to Angel Falls, is set on the north-western edge of Canaima National Park, northwest of the Auyan Tepuy. A dozen operators in Canaima organize trips by a large dugout up to the falls. The operators also tout fly-bys and excursions to other nearby falls.

Of the operators, Canaima Tours (canaimatours.com) is one of the most reputable. Local Pemon families also run similar, smaller operations.

Where to stay

Most lodging in Canaima is notably cheaper if you come independently and reserve directly with the owners.

Wakü Lodge, which is run by Canaima Tours, is the best, and also the most expensive one in Canaima.

There are also cheap options like the camp built by Tomás Bernal. It may be one of the best lodgings in Canaima. They have a website at worldwander.com/bernal/default.htm.



The Angel Falls

Photo provided by Embassy of Venezuela



Something's Gotta Give (2003)

Starring

Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton, Keanu Reeves, Amanda Peet, Frances McDormand and Jon Favreau

Synopsis

Harry Sanborn (Nicholson) is a New York music mogul with a libido much younger than his years. During a romantic rendezvous with his newest girlfriend, Marin (Peet), at her mother's Hamptons beach house, Harry develops chest pains and eventually winds up being nursed by Marin's reluctant mother, Erica Barry (Keaton) – a successful, divorced New York playwright. When Harry hesitates to pursue Erica, his thirty-something doctor (Reeves) becomes smitten with her. Harry undergoes a true change of heart when he fights to win Erica back.



Scene 1: Erica's Dining Room

Harry: What's your play about?

(Marin and Zoe stop what they are doing and turn to Erica. She's hesitant to reveal this.)

Erica: About? Well, I'm not exactly sure, which is a bit of a problem, but so far it's about a divorced woman, a writer, she's this high strung ⁽¹⁾, over-amped ⁽²⁾, controlling, know-it-all neurotic ... *(everyone stares at her)* who's incredibly cute and lovable. *(more stares)* It's a comedy. *(takes a seat next to Zoe)* So, how did you two meet?

Marin: At a wine auction at Sotheby's. Harry was the big buyer of the night.

Harry: I kept winking at ⁽³⁾ Marin as she was conducting the auction and apparently every time I did that she misunderstood and I ended up buying cases of outrageously expensive wine.

(Zoe and Marin laugh.)

Erica: Ever been married, Harry?

Harry: No. No, I haven't.

Erica: Wow. Now why do you think that is?

Harry: Some people just don't fit the mold ⁽⁴⁾. And so far ...

Erica: Hey, if it ain't broke.

Harry: Exactly.

(Harry leans back, places his arm around Marin's chair. Erica takes note.)

Zoe: Wait a

second, aren't you like a famous bachelor?

Harry: I wouldn't say I'm famous.

Zoe: No, I think I read a piece on you in *New York Magazine*.

Harry: I guess people find it interesting that I've escaped the noose ⁽⁵⁾ for so long.

Zoe: Yeah, wasn't the name of the article, "The

Escape Artist?"

Erica: Wait. I read that article. That was you? You were once engaged to ⁽⁶⁾ somebody big. Who was it? Not Joan Collins ... Wait ... Carly Simon?

Zoe: Yeah, it was somebody cool like that.

(Trying to remember) Not Martha Stewart ...

Marin: You could just ... ask him.

Harry: No, this is more fun. It's like I'm not here.

Marin: Harry was once engaged to Diane Sawyer. Okay?

Zoe: Right. Diane Sawyer. I love her.

Erica: *(stunned)* I'm impressed.

Harry: Yeah, women your age love that about me. *(Erica pauses on that one.)*

Harry: *(trying to get through this)* You know what I mean.

Erica: Yes I do.

Harry: It's not a bad thing to say "women your age."

Erica: No ... I'm sure it was a compliment.

Harry: It was ... just the truth.

Zoe: *(stepping in)* So when was this engagement?

Harry: Long time ago. She was just this adorable lanky ⁽⁷⁾ girl from Kentucky with the greatest pair of legs I'd ever seen ... Never understood her ending up with a job where she never showed them. *(Munches on his lobster)*

Erica: You're not serious? She's Diane Sawyer, she goes into caves in Afghanistan with a shmatte ⁽⁸⁾ on her head. Who cares about her legs?

Harry: Just anyone who's ever had the pleasure of ... You know what? I hate to eat and run ⁽⁹⁾ but...

Zoe: No, wait. This is actually a very fascinating dynamic – what's going on at this table...

Marin: *(warning him)* Zoe teaches Women's Studies at Columbia ...

Harry: Oh, so this is gonna hurt.

Zoe: No, come on, listen, here's the rub for women. Look at what we have here with you and Erica. Harry, you've been around the block ⁽¹⁰⁾ a few times, right? You're what? Around 60, never been married, which, we all know, if you were a woman, would be a curse, you'd be an old maid, a spinster ⁽¹¹⁾, blah, blah, blah ... Okay, so instead of pitying you, they write articles about you, celebrate your never marrying, it makes you illusive and ungettable. You're a real catch. Then, take my gorgeous sister here ...

Vocabulary

- 1. high strung:** having an extremely nervous or sensitive temperament
- 2. over-amped:** over excited
- 3. wink at:** to pretend not to notice in a way that suggests attraction
- 4. fit the mold:** follow convention
- 5. escape the noose:** to evade an expected outcome, in this case, marriage
- 6. engaged to:** having agreed to marry
- 7. lanky:** (of a person) ungracefully tall and thin
- 8. shmatte:** a Yiddish word meaning a tattered article of clothing
- 9. eat and run:** depart immediately after consuming a meal; also, leave in a hurry
- 10. been around the block:** a person who has had sexual intercourse numerous times before
- 11. spinster:** an unmarried woman past the common age for marrying
- 12. thoroughbred:** a racehorse, in this case a person regarded as being of good breeding
- 13. mutt:** a dog of mixed breeds, in this case, a person of no special merit
- 14. flinty:** hard or cruel; obdurate; unyielding
- 15. impervious:** not capable of being affected or disturbed

(By He Jianwei)

Scene 2: Living Room

(Erica and Harry enter from opposite side of the room, both in their pajamas.)

Harry: You ever miss being married? I bet you were great at it.

Erica: Sometimes I miss it. At night ... But not that much anymore. Was one of us just saying something interesting?

Harry: You said you can't imagine what I think of you.

Erica: Oh, right, but you don't have to answer that.

Harry: Okay.

Erica: I mean, if you had an opinion, I'd be curious but ...

Harry: Will you tell me first why you only miss being married at night?

Erica: *(cracking eggs)* Oh, cause the phone doesn't ring as much at night and the "alone" thing happens at night and sleeping by myself took some getting used to. But I got the hang of it. You gotta sleep in the middle of the bed. It's absolutely not healthy to have a side when no one has the other side.

Harry: Okay, now I'm convinced what I think of you is right. *(Erica waits ...)* You are a tower of strength.

Erica: Ughhhhhhhhhh ...

Harry: Try not to rate my answer.

Erica: I'm sorry. It's just ... I'm sorry.

Harry: You're like a thoroughbred ⁽¹²⁾ in a world of mutts ⁽¹³⁾. No, you know what you are, you're like a great portrait over a fireplace. Words have been invented to describe women like you.

Erica: *(fearful)* Such as?

Harry: Flinty ⁽¹⁴⁾ and ... impervious ⁽¹⁵⁾.



Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley_chen@ynet.com.

By Qiu Jiaoning

When I was chatting with my friends about drinking capacity and etiquette last week, I told them, "I hate people who are often drunk as mud, and even get lost on the way home ..."

One of my friends from America couldn't understand why I used "mud" to describe a drunkard, saying, "In English, a drunkard is usually likened to a skunk. If you say that someone is as 'drunk as a skunk,' you are emphasizing that they are very drunk – rolling about, raving, with the smell of alcohol emanating from every pore." He told me that a skunk is a small bushy-tailed animal that can send out a strong, unpleasant smell as a defense when attacked.

It's a cultural difference. There is a Chinese saying "lan zu ru ni," in which we use "mud" to describe those who are thoroughly drunk. So I translated it directly into English, and confused my friend.

The term "drunk as a skunk" is simply a good example of the human love for analogies and rhyming; it works especially well because "skunk" rhymes with "drunk." Some non-rhyming terms for "extremely drunk" include drunk as a fiddler, a fish, a lord, a fly, a log, a dog, a loon, a poet, a broom, a bat, a badger and a boiled owl. "Drunk as a skunk" seems to be a fairly recent addition, though perhaps the best known.

One can also say "I hate people who are often sloshed, wasted or ripped," instead of "drunk as a skunk." To explain the worst situation for a drunkard – drinking

himself into unconsciousness – we can use the term "pass out." For example, "He was already wasted at 8pm. Now he's passed out on the sofa."

With the confusion cleared up, I asked my friend how to describe those who are slightly drunk and feel relaxed. He gave me an example using the word "tipsy": "He's a lightweight – after two beers he's already tipsy."

Why are you as 'drunk as a skunk'?

CFP Photo

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

By Derrick Sobodash

1. I'm an invert.

Sorry, no. Unless you are Houdini, or close proximity to a black hole has sucked your body inside out, you are not an "invert." If you are a homosexual, well, yes, Merriam-Webster says you could call yourself an "invert," but normally people would just say "homosexual." If you mean you're quiet, don't like big groups, don't like talking and keep to yourself, you

may want to say, "I'm an introvert." Remember: nipples may be inverted, navels may be inverted, but people usually are not.

2. All the people I concerned here were dead.

When you want to express concern about something or someone, in this case, "the people," you need to include the word "about." An example would be, "concerned about him." Also in this case, you are trying to express there was some specific thing causing your

concern, in this case, "the people." In English, you say, "I was concerned about him." The "about" is key. "All the people I was concerned about here were dead," is much better.

3. I promised to live a happy live.

This sentence is attempting to construct an adverb phrase using the infinitive form of "live." The problem is adverb phrases are usually constructed using an infinitive verb followed by a noun. "A happy live"

doesn't work because "live" is either a verb or an adjective, never a noun. The noun form is "life." You should say, "I promised to live a happy life," or you could use an adverb such as, "I promised to live happily."

4. Beautiful

Reserve this word. While on the Blacklist, by no means does "beautiful" deserve to be banned. Words are like medicine – the more you use them, the weaker they get. "Beautiful" is one of the most powerful adjectives in English for describing something that is aesthetically pleasing. English learners have a tendency to apply the word to all kinds of objects when a less intense adjective would work better and sound more natural. Try "lovely," "gorgeous," "pretty," "appealing," "cute," "nice" or "neat."

You could say "service industry" as well. In general, "third" refers to the third thing in an ordinal sequence of three or more things. Tertiary also has numerous technical meanings in the fields of chemistry, ornithology and geology, to name a few.

4. Confusion / Confucian

The two words have totally different meanings, but could be written the same by mistake. "Confusion" is the state of being confused or in disorder. "Confucian" refers to a member of the school of philosophers, founded by Confucius, who codified in his teachings the traditional Chinese principles of ethics, morals, and politics usually called *rujia* in Chinese.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

公告 NOTICE

尊敬的游客 Dear Visitor:

为了您的安全和保护公共环境质量:

In order to your safety and protection beach public environment quality:

· 严禁下海游泳。

Do not swim in the sea.

· 请勿在海滩燃放烟花爆竹和烧烤。

Please do not set off fireworks and barbecues on the beach and bakes.

· 请妥善保管好随身携带的物品。

Please properly take care of your personal belongings.

· 爱护环境卫生, 请勿乱扔果皮、纸屑。

Keep environmental sanitation, please do not throw the peel, the paper scraps.

· 您的一切行为都不能污染损害沙滩、海水质量。

Your all behavior do not pollute harm the sand beach, the seawater quality.

版海市静安区人民

Photo by Chen Shasha

Boao Warning

By Derrick Sobodash

The good City of Boao provided this week's Chinglish sign.

"In order to your safety and protection beach public environment quality: do not allow to Swimming. Please do not set off the smoke fireworks bamboo in the beaches and bakes. Please properly takes care of the goods which good along with carries. Take care environmental sanitation; please do not throw the peel, the paper scraps. Your behaviors all cannot pollute harm the sand beach, the seawater quality."

What a mess.

"In order to your safety" simply does not work. Based on the other words in the sentence, they probably meant, "For your safety," or, "To protect your safety." Also, knock off the "pleases," which are repetitive and lack a tone of authority.

"Do not allow to" is just flat-out wrong – it's difficult to even call it Chinglish. The "to" suggests they intended to use an infinitive form. Then again, the present tense verb makes it sound like it should be, "No swimming." Note the lower-case "s" in "swimming."

The next part is a little messier. The "beaches" commandment needs to go earlier in the sentence, or at least after "bakes." Further, "bakes" isn't an adequate translation for *shaokao*; given that this sign is at a beach, "barbecuing" is the more likely mode of food preparation – unless the tourists are packing a 200-pound redbrick oven. A cleaned up sentence could be, "No smoking, lighting fireworks, burning bamboo or barbecuing at the beach."

The third instruction is similarly confusing. Are tourists supposed to be very careful not to break anything they are carrying? "To take care of" generally means to "care for," the same meaning as *zhaogu*, and not quite right for this sign. In mob-speak, it could mean to kill someone. They probably meant, "Don't forget any of your belongings."

Fourth up, you could say, "take care of the environmental sanitation," but that doesn't sound natural. "Keep the beach clean," works best.

The final instruction nearly renders the remainder of the sign moot. Literally, it says no matter what visitors do, they cannot end up harming the beach. That's a license to defecate on it. What the sentence really needs is a command, like "Do not." "Do not pollute the beach or contaminate the water" would be quite clear.

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

1. Costumer / Customer

People easily use the two words mistakenly. In fact, a "costumer" is a person who makes, sells or rents costumes, as for theatrical productions. A "customer" is a person who purchases goods or services.

2. Third / Tertiary

Tertiary could refer to those of the third order, as well as rank or degree. If you want to mention a kind of industry, like "primary industry" and "secondary industry," it's better to say "tertiary industry" instead of "third industry."

Friday, March 23

Exhibition Su Xinping – A Retrospective



Where: Red Gate Gallery,
No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11 am-6
pm, until April 4
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 1005

Chen Shaoxiong Solo Exhibition

The exhibition features
Chen Shaoxiong's latest works,
including his video *Ink Things*
and his installation *Visible
and Invisible, Known and*

Unknown along with the paper
and canvas works which form
Collectivity Memory Series.

Where: Universal Studios-
Beijing, Compound 8A, Cao-
changdi, Chaoyang

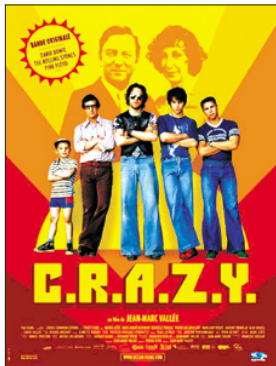
When: Tue-Sat 11am-7pm,
until April 8

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2600

Movie

C.R.A.Z.Y.



It's a story of two love
affairs: a father's love for his



Dmitry Vasily Solo Oil Painting Exhibition to be held at Beijing Russian Art Gallery on Saturday

five sons, and one son's love
for his father, a love so strong
it compels him to live a lie.
That son is Zac Beaulieu, born
on the December 25, 1960, dif-
ferent from all of his brothers
but desperate to fit in. During
the next 20 years, life takes
Zac on a surprising and unex-

pected journey that ultimately
leads him to accept his true
nature and, even more impor-
tantly, leads his father to love
him for who he really is.
A mystical fable about a
modern-day Christ-like figure,
"C.R.A.Z.Y." exudes the beauty,
the poetry and the madness of

the human spirit in all its
contradictions.

Where: French Culture
Center, 18 Guangcai Interna-
tional Apartments, Gongti Xi
Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Saturday, March 24

Exhibition Dmitry Vasily Solo Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: Beijing Russian Art
Gallery, No 2 Changpocun,
Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu,
Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-8pm,
until April 8

Admission: Free

Tel: 6776 8593

Fang Tanyuan Solo Exhibition

Where: New Millennium
Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2
Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm,

until April 5

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122

The Voiceless People – Chen Shaofeng Solo Exhibition



Where: White Space Beijing,
No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 12pm-6pm,
until April 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2054

Movie

Ridicule

To get royal backing for
a needed drainage project, a

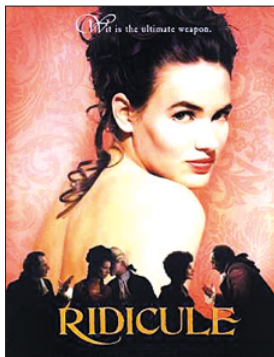
poor French lord must learn to
play delicate games of wit at
court in Versailles. The unwit-
ting nobleman soon discovers
that survival at court demands
both a razor-sharp intellect
and an acid tongue.

Where: French Culture
Center, 18 Guangcai Interna-
tional Apartments, Gongti Xi
Lu, Chaoyang

When: 3pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



Sunday, March 25

Exhibition Yu Gao Solo Exhibition



Where: 3/4 Gallery, B-102
Landmark Crystal, No 9 Jiux-
ianqiao Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-7pm,
until April 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 7401

The Dream of the White Mansion – Wen Fang Solo Exhibition



Where: Paris Beijing Photo
Gallery, Dashanzi Art District,
No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm,
until May 5

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9263

The Story Is Over – Hai Bo Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Commune,
Dashanzi Art District, No 4

Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm,
until April 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2862,

139 1140 3171

Memories of Twelve Artists' works

Where: Dimensions Art
Center, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu,
Chaoyang

When: until April 22

Admission: Free

Tel: 6435 9665

Movie

L'homme du train

At a deserted train station,
a teacher and a gangster meet
and realize that each might
have been better suited to the
other man's way of life. Notori-
ous criminal Milan is sent to
a small French town to knock
off the local bank. With plans
to make and no place to stay,
he accepts a retired school-
teacher's offer of shelter. As
a friendship of sorts develops
between these opposite per-
sonalities, each starts to envy
the other, and by the week's
end, everything will change for
both of them. They quickly
find that their lives might have
turned out better if they were
in one another's shoes.

Where: French Culture
Center, 18 Guangcai Interna-
tional Apartments, Gongti Xi
Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



Stage in April

Music

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No
14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 1

Admission: 50-680 yuan

Renee Flaming Recital

Who: Renee Flaming
Where: Zhongshan Music
Hall, inside Zhongshan Park,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,

April 7

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Rolls-Royce London Sym- phony Orchestra Concert

Who: Rolls-Royce London
Symphony Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No
14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,

Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,

April 19 and 20

Admission: 300-2200 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic
Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music
Hall, inside Zhongshan Park,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,

April 21 and 28

Admission: 40-480 yuan

Drama

A Beauty Encounter

Who: Directed by Meng
Jinghui and performed by Xia
Yu and Gao Yuanyuan

Where: Poly Theater, No
14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 5-15

Admission: 80-880 yuan

The Straw House (Caofangzi)

Told from the perspective of
elementary school student Sang
Sang, *The Straw House* tells a
number of seemingly ordinary
yet touching stories. The tale
is set in Jiangnan, Guangzhou
in the 1960s, and is based on
the famous Chinese novel. It
describes Sang Sang's growing
understanding of life and of
death, and the many people who,
by unexplained acts of fate, enter
and influence his boyhood world.

Who: Directed by Cao Ping
and performed by Zhang Jian

Where: Peking Universality
Concert Hall, inside Peking Uni-
versity, Haidian

When: 7:30pm, April 7 and 8

Admission: 150-380 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)